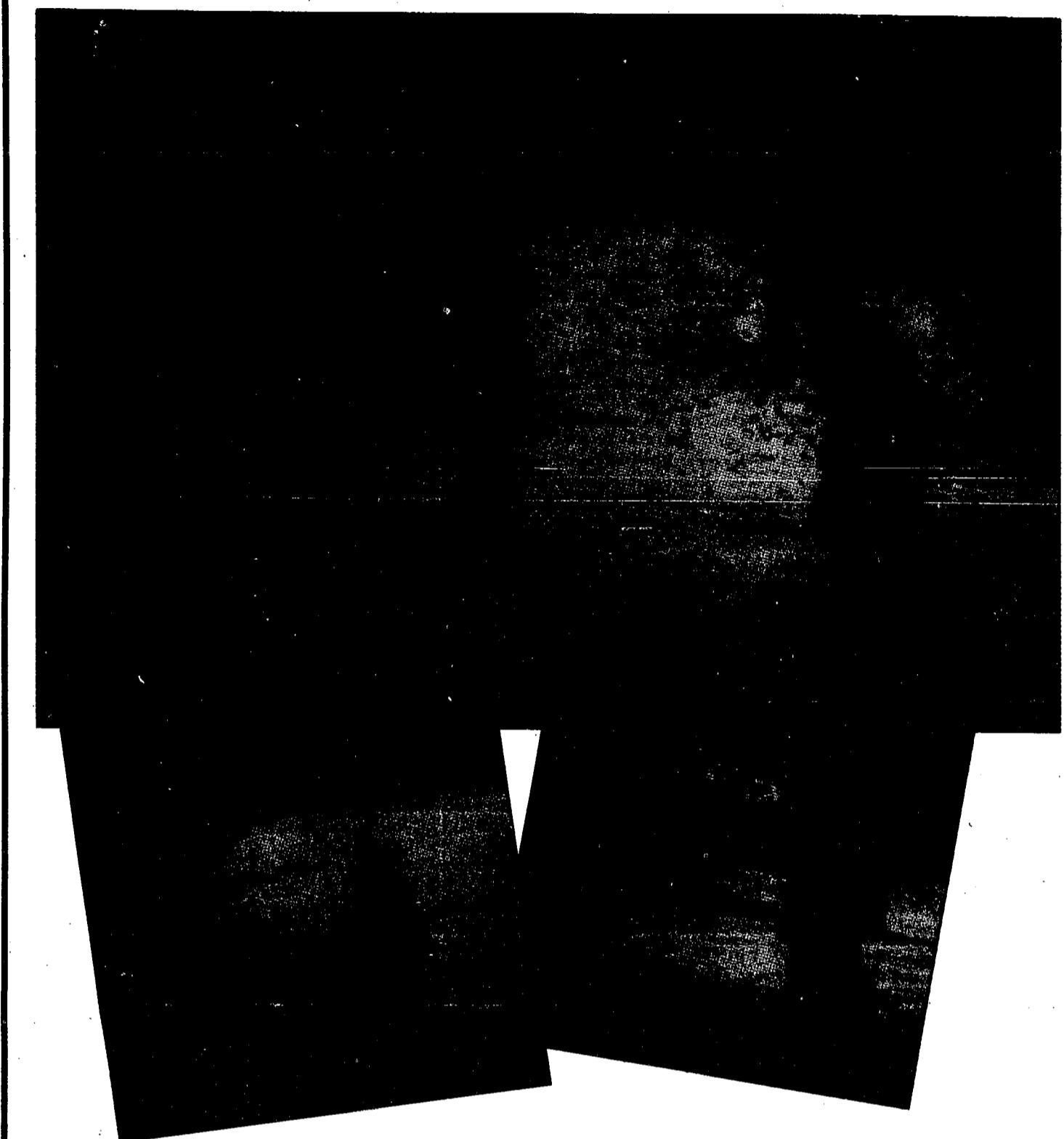




CRAWFORD COUNTY AVALANCHE

Thursday, January 8, 1998

1ST ISSUE



The Five Days of Snow

There are 12 days of Christmas, but only five days of snow -- so far -- at Grayling's Hanson Hills recreation center. Open skiing was featured Dec. 29 through Jan. 2, and plenty of folks took advantage of it. In top photo, Jimmy Eddy, snowboard instructor at Hanson Hills, helps students Kate Petersen and Jennette Dudewicz from Saginaw. The ski tow line was busy (lower left), while Shane Ginther (lower right) seems a bit tentative as he gets ready to take off on his skis.

Porter takes new job in Traverse City

by Shirley D. Schmoock
Special Writer

"This county should be very proud. The players -- the sheriff's department, the prosecutor's office, the courts, the various private agencies -- have worked hard to improve the welfare of its residents," said Robert A. Porter, long-time director of the Crawford and Otsego County Family Independence Agency (FIA), who is transferring to Traverse City.

As director of the FIA for Crawford County for the past 20 years, Porter also has served in an equal capacity in Otsego County. The selection of an interim director for the agency will be done by Charles Bryant, zone manager of the FIA, until such time as a permanent placement is made.

"I've been here since 1977, and I've made many good friends and met some fine colleagues. I'll miss them all dearly. But I've always wanted to go back to my home town, and this opportunity was just what I'd been waiting for," Porter said.

The director's job in Traverse City will be no picnic for Porter, he said. Grand Traverse County has its own unique set of problems with regard to those on public assistance and the working poor.

"Maybe the housing issue -- or the lack of good affordable housing for low income families -- is a much larger problem than it has been here," Porter said. "Not that

Traverse City doesn't need help, but in some areas, they need less. The economic growth they've been experiencing has been helpful, but many people simply cannot afford the housing they currently have available."

In 20 years, Porter has seen many changes in the north.

"Progress has been slow, but progress has been made," he said. "Just 10 years ago, Crawford

that the SSI cases are lower."

That usually means that the population receiving this type of assistance is aging, but new cases are not increasing, he said.

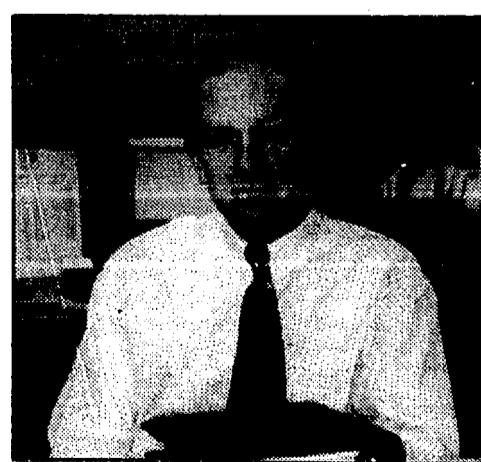
The government, Porter claims, must take credit for many of the reforms made to the system.

"Our cases have dropped from 300 ADC cases in 1992 to about 150 as of the end of October, 1997," he said.

"The Work First program has been an exceptional success. The thought behind this program is 'why not let people work and give them an incentive to be productive?' The idea offsets what the taxpayer is charged, and a large percentage of our people are now working and they seem to love it."

"Another beneficial program has been the new Cash-Out program. If a client can produce a minimum of \$350 each month for three consecutive months, and they can maintain these earnings, then we are allowed to give them their food stamp allotment in cash. Food Stamps are given on a strict eligibility basis."

"But, the stigma attached to food stamp purchases is eliminated with the Cash-Out program, and in many cases, the clients are able to use the



Bob Porter

County was the fourth highest in the state of Michigan for having people on public assistance. We calculated that 21 percent of the county was receiving some sort of public assistance.

"Today, the county is somewhere between 24th and 25th in receiving assistance. What is significant is

money on other things the family may need."

Porter said if he had his way, the entire Food Stamp program would be eliminated.

"This program not only stigmatizes the client, but many of these stamps are lost or stolen. When that happens, they must be replaced, which doubles the cost of the program to that extent," Porter said.

"A few years ago, we were losing about \$1,000 - 1,500 a month in lost or stolen stamps. I went to the new Postmaster, and we worked out some changes to the system. It took awhile to get control of the losses, but we did it. Overall, the State loses about \$80,000 or more every year."

Porter began work with the Department of Social Services -- now FIA -- in 1974. He started in the Roscommon office as a Child Services case worker. He graduated from Central Michigan.

"I began my career as a music major, but due to some changes in my life, I found myself in sociology and psychology classes. I was doing very well and liked the field very much. My grades improved, and here I am," he said.

The Grand Traverse County position is a promotional step for Porter because the area has an enormous medical community from which to draw services. His staff will remain

See 'Porter moves...' A-2

Take time to go see a local sporting event.

Hartman, Smock will lead Board

by Shirley D. Schmoock

Special Writer

John Hartman, second term commissioner from Beaver Creek, was elected to head the Crawford County Board of Commissioners for 1998.

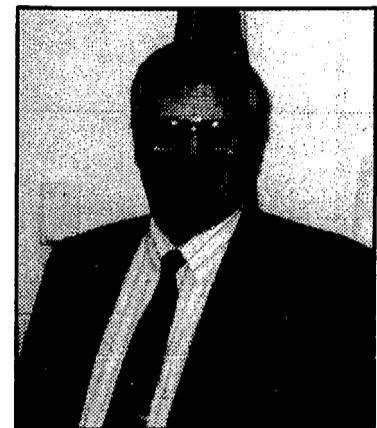
Hartman, who has been vice chairman, succeeds Bruce Briezke of South Branch as head of the county board.

Succeeding Hartman as vice chair of the board is Commissioner Robert Smock of Grayling Township.

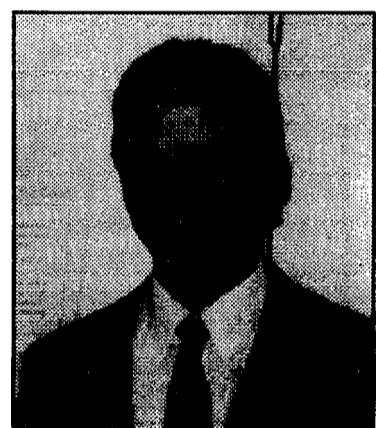
Hartman and wife, Sharon, have lived in Beaver Creek Township for more than 15 years. Sharon Hartman is Township Clerk in Beaver Creek.

Daughter Kimberly is a junior in high school, and son Michael is a senior at Adria College.

University. Mary Smock is a Title I Coordinator at the Grayling Elementary School, and Commissioner Smock is Director of



John Hartman



Robert Smock

The eldest Hartman son, Scott, just received his wings and is a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He's currently in Texas, has completed his course work at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, and will be returning to Little Rock for his next assignment.

Chairman Hartman has a full agenda set for 1998. In addition to chairing the Board of Commissioners and serving as a member of the Crawford Planning and Zoning Commission, he also represents the county on the Health and Welfare, and Rehabilitation and Mental Health committees, and as a member of the Regional Solid Waste Board.

New vice chair Smock represents District One in Grayling Township, elected as Vice Chairman for the Board of Commissioners.

He and wife, Mary, live on the AuSable River with their daughters, Amanda, a junior in the Crawford AuSable High School, and Kristen, a sixth grade student at Grayling Middle School. Another daughter, Kate, is a junior at Michigan State

the Counseling and Health Substance Abuse Services of Gaylord.

Smock, too, has a full plate of responsibilities for the 1998 year. He will continue as chair of the county's Personnel and Labor Committee, and will be the county's representative in the areas of Judicial, Parks and Recreation, Soil and Conservation, and as a member of Northern Michigan Substance Abuse Services.

Turn on your lights!!

The strange weather which has visited the Crawford County area recently underlines the need for a simple yet often neglected matter of safety.

Motorists should turn on their headlights when visibility is low.

Unfortunately, too many drivers think that just because they can see, it's easy for others to see them ... but that's not necessarily so.

That's the gist of a complaint registered by, among others, Grayling's veteran school crossing guard Sue Louchart.

Louchart came into The Avalanche office Tuesday, dressed in what she calls her "pumpkin suit" of bright orange, to tell of her concern.

Louchart is upset by the dangers to her young charges when drivers ignore the common sense matter of turning on lights when it's

foggy, snowy or rainy.

On foggy Tuesday morning, she counted 15 cars without headlights turned on, thereby creating an unnecessary hazard for elementary school children crossing at her post at Michigan Ave. and Erie St.

And she only started counting once the number of cars without lights began to alarm her.

"It's dangerous with the kids crossing," Louchart said. "The cars tend to blend in."

The object, of course, is to turn on car lights so other drivers, pedestrians, and especially school children can see the cars, she pointed out.

"It's so simple, and it's just a matter of courtesy as well as safety," Louchart said.

The problem also occurs at dusk or dawn, or whenever visibility is limited. Turn on your lights!

Headlines Inside

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Snowshoeing becomes an American sport 7A
Former city employee sues over retirement 9A
Viking Freshmen ride crest of three wins 3B

Crawford County AVALANCHE

Crawford County's Newspaper for 120 Years • VOL 120-NO 1, 28 PAGES-2 SECTIONS
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Business Directory 8-10 A Legal Notices 5B
Church Directory 6A Opinions 4A
Classifieds 7-10B Sports 11B
Facts & Features 6B Obits 12A

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ACC 301	Intermediate Accounting I	Monday
MTH 302	Statistics I	Monday
MTH336	College Algebra	Monday
ACC325	Budgeting	Tuesday
FIN340	Corporate Finance	Tuesday
MGT348	Credits and Collections	Tuesday
MKT301	Principles of Marketing	Tuesday
ACC202	Principles of Accounting II	Wednesday
ACC342	Michigan Taxation (2.25)	Wednesday
CIS 151	Spreadsheets (2.25) begins 2/18	Wednesday
COM212	Speech	Wednesday
MGT306	Human Resource Mgt.	Wednesday
ACC402	Advanced Accounting II	Thursday
COM122	College Writing II	Thursday
ECO201	Macroeconomics	Thursday
MGT345	Purchasing & Materials Mgt.	Thursday

All classes are held at Gaylord High School from 6:00 - 9:25 pm

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Board sets dates, names committees

by Shirley D. Schmoock
Special Writer

The Crawford County Board of Commissioners, at its organizational meeting Jan. 5, took care of a number of housekeeping chores, in addition to approving officers and committee assignments for the new year.

Regular meetings of the Commission were set for the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, commencing at 9 a.m. in the Crawford County Circuit Court Room.

The Ways and Means Committee will meet before the first regular meeting each month, beginning at 8 a.m., and the Labor and Personnel Committee will meet before the second regular meeting, also beginning at 8 a.m.

The only member disclosure made at the organizational meeting was that by Commissioner Kathy Black, who disclosed that her husband, Randy, is a contract employee for Huron Pines, and should her vote be required on an issue concerning them, she would abstain.

County commissioners also serve on various boards and committees

throughout the area. Some assignments are county-wide, while most are area-wide and involve several surrounding communities and counties.

All six commissioners are members of the three primary board committees — Ways and Means, Personnel and Labor, and Law Enforcement.

Commissioner Lynette Corlew of Grayling Township will be chair of the Ways and Means committee, which handles money matters; she succeeds new Board Chair John Hartman in that role.

The Labor and Personnel Committee will continue to be chaired by Robert Smock, from Grayling Township, again this year. Smock, who also is new board vice

chair, has headed this committee which deals with labor matters, union grievances, and hiring and firing county personnel.

The Law Enforcement Committee will be chaired by Commissioner Bruce Bretzke of South Branch Township, outgoing board chair. This committee covers matters regarding law enforcement and Central Dispatch.

Other committees, boards or commissions, boards or committees cover a broad spectrum of interests and responsibilities. Those primarily responsible for various areas are: Health and Welfare, District #10 — Comm. Black, Hartman; Insurance — Black; Regional solid waste and Planning and Zoning Commission

— Hartman, Black; Economic Development — Bretzke, Comm. Dennis Long; Chamber of Commerce — Long; Rehabilitation and Mental Health — Hartman; Youth Services — Corlew; Community Corrections — Corlew; Judicial — Smock; Family Independence Agency — Corlew; NEMSCA — appointed Mary Bishop, sponsored by Bretzke; Northern Michigan Council of Governments — Black; Parks and Recreation — Smock, Corlew; Transportation, Road Commission

— Bretzke; Northern Michigan Consortium — Long; Soil and Conservation — Smock; Northern Michigan Substance Abuse Services — Smock; Local Emergency Management — Long; Emergency Services Planning Commission

— Long.

Crawford shares road gains

Gov. John Engler has announced that 1997 delivered a record transportation program in Michigan.

The 1997 construction season in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula included 205 projects, which improved over 673 miles of roads and three bridges. These projects included the addition of passing lanes on US-4, US-2, US-23, M-28 and M-72, and repair of I-75 at the junction of US-27.

Included in the listing by Engler were seven projects in Crawford County.

"We're focusing on preserving and maintaining our current infrastructure, attacking the worst roads first, keeping good roads good, fixing more bridges than ever, and addressing a modest need for increased capacity. We're delivering on 20 year old promises and keeping our economy moving by building a better Michigan," said Engler.

Statewide, the 1997 construction season totaled \$624 million, included 741 projects, improved 1,873 miles of Michigan's roads and 114 bridges. In addition, \$261 million was invested in railways, airports and public transportation.

Initially, the 1997 transportation

program investment of \$530 million programmed improvements for over 930 miles of Michigan roads and 86 bridges. The passage of Build Michigan II in late July added \$91 million, 392 miles of road improvements and 25 bridges to the M-DOT 1997 program.

The majority of these projects have been completed, are underway, or will be completed in 1998, while 702 miles of improvements funded by economic development fund grants or safety programs were also completed this year.

In addition, 200 miles of road improvements and three bridge projects announced in previous years were completed or open to traffic during the 1997 construction season.

The 1998 construction program, due to the passage of Build Michigan II, will be even more aggressive and far-reaching, M-DOT claimed. Details about projects

Porter moves to new job

Concluded from A-1

about the same as in the two offices in Crawford and Otsego Counties.

"Returning to Traverse City where I grew up is going to be terrific for me," he admitted. "But I'm going to miss Crawford County and Grayling very much. The people here have made my life very pleasant over the years.

"If I truly have a talent, it's picking wonderful people to work with me. And, if it were possible, I'd take everyone here with me."

Porter's eldest daughter, Rachael, is in her first year at Western Michigan University. His youngest daughter, Lindsay, is a sophomore in high school. Porter plans to commute through the winter and will begin his new job on Jan. 12, 1998.

County Commissioner Lynette Corlew is the county's liaison with the FIA. She had glowing praise for Porter and what he'd meant to the agency over the years and he'd be

missed very much.

"If somebody wonders what the FIA does, they received 337 calls regarding child abuse or neglect last year. They have investigated 140 of them. Even if a case belongs to another county but the child is found here, they look into it," Corlew said.

"Another statistic of interest was there are 1,314 recipients either of food stamps or receiving ADC (Aid to Dependent Children). The cost per month is \$138,924, and that has been reduced from 10 years ago. There are 141 children in day care so their parents can work, and the cost of this program is \$33,908."

"Funding for this agency," she concluded after requesting that she be reassigned again to this agency as liaison, "is a big issue in this county and we need to let them know that we wish to remain active participants and support their very fine efforts."

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Gaylord's Sportsplex seems to be working well

by Shirley D. Schmoock
Special Writer

One week before the proposal for Grayling's Sportsplex went on the ballot earlier this year, an area newspaper reported that Gaylord's complex was expected to experience a shortfall of \$30,000 for 1996. Grayling's ballot proposal went down by less than 100 votes.

"True," said Norm Summerfield, executive director of the Otsego County Sportsplex. "But, we paid out \$76,000 in extra construction costs in advance of their being due, so we had a surplus of \$44,000 for 1996 — not a loss of \$30,000."

The Otsego County facility was built with a \$4.5 million bond issue financed for 12-years and at a cost to the taxpayers of .80 mills for the construction. An additional .15 mills was passed by voters to help meet the operating costs of the facility.

The County of Otsego owns and leases the building to a non-profit partnership consisting of no more than 15 members — according to Summerfield, it now has 9 members. This board hired the executive director, and then Summerfield, in turn, hired aquatics and assistant aquatics directors, various maintenance, janitorial and office personnel. The

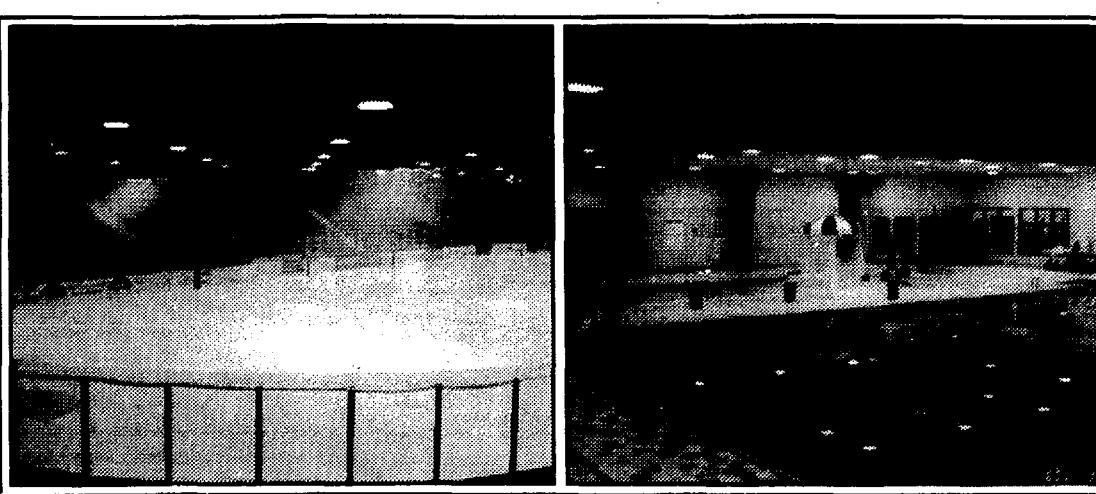
facility has also just hired a Marketing Program Director, who is responsible for selling the facility to groups and to other revenue-producing sources.

"The center employs between 33-35 people," said Summerfield, "and they are not county employees. They have full benefits, good insurance, and their pay scale generally averages \$7-\$12 per hour."

He said they'd started out with "many more people in the beginning than we needed." But as the complex began to seek its own level of activity, "we laid off the excess workers. It's very busy during the day, and our janitorial staff was having a difficult time of working around the crowds."

The Gaylord facility has a walking track inside the building and an outer track as well. The playground was completed by volunteer funds of \$200,000; these funds were donated by the efforts of what Summerfield called "the wives of the natural gas well owners." He said he could not believe how quickly they collected the funds and outfitted the playground.

Summerfield said that the operating expenses for the year are expected to be \$633,000, while revenues,



Otsego County Sportsplex hockey rink and pool area.

including the millage, are \$660,000. Revenue sources for the Gaylord complex are the .15 millage, skating rink, swimming pool, and miscellaneous rentals such as the pro shop and storage.

In summarizing the finances of the Otsego County Sportsplex, Summerfield said that in "1998, we expect to begin generating a reserve fund for maintenance and replacement." The county carries the building on its liability insurance policy, but the Sportsplex pays the premiums.

"The money we generate goes to the County Treasurer's office, and then I write transmittals for payment of our expenses," he said.

Joe Wakeley, Crawford County treasurer, said this is a good idea. He also said that the proposed facility in Grayling could, in part, be leased

but not-for-profit.

"The building would be financed by tax exempt bonds, and the complex would not want to jeopardize the status of those bonds. When people buy bonds, their interest is tax deductible," Wakeley said.

Wakeley said that a recent change in the law has eliminated taxation based upon State Equalized Valuation (SEV).

"SEV still exists, but the new taxable base is one called Taxable Value (TE). The SEV for Crawford County, while going up is approximately \$350,000,000, but the (TE) — that figure which determines millage rates — is \$329,222,000," he said.

Wakeley said that a bond issue for the Crawford County Sportsplex of \$6 million for a 30-year duration would amount to 1.29 mills. An

operating millage of .45 is also being requested by the committee to build the facility, but this millage would only be applicable for 10 years.

Lynette Corlew, Crawford County Commissioner and co-chair for the Parks Commission, said "we need to be realistic about what we can afford in Crawford County. I'd love a facility and my family would use it, but we should encourage a community partnership.

"And, while this complex would be a great asset to our community, we need the plan pared to the bone so that we can meet our responsibilities to the voters. Getting the bond issue passed is one thing, but getting the building up and running is yet another. This is not Gaylord, therefore the plan must fit Crawford County."

Kirtland criminal justice program given two grants

The Michigan Justice Training Commission recently awarded two grants, totaling more than \$150,000, to Kirtland Community College's criminal justice program.

A law enforcement grant of \$118,592 will provide funding for in-service courses provided by KCC to area police and sheriff departments via the Northern Michigan Law Enforcement Training Consortium.

The grant will fund such courses as Advanced Interview/Interrogation, Evidence Technician Training, Precision Driving and Radar Certification, as well as a series of five-day update programs called Advanced Law Enforcement Refresher Training, or ALERT.

The grant-funded classes supplement courses in Arson Investigation, Criminal Sexual Conduct Investigation, Basic Interview/Interrogation, Search and Seizure, and two management classes, which are funded through consortium membership fees paid by the participating departments.



NEW HOME -- This is the home of AuSable Auto Repair & Sound located in the Grayling Industrial Park.

AuSable auto repair business now open

by Shirley D. Schmoock
Special Writer

Former Auburn Hills resident, Michelle Smith, figured that Grayling was the place to start her new business — truck and auto repair.

"I found the opportunity and had a chance to purchase the necessary equipment at the right price. And, here we are," she said, showing off a new office and shop in the Grayling Industrial Park, AuSable Auto Repair & Sound.

"We haven't got the sign up yet," Smith said, and she mentioned the many details she was yet to get finished. "But we're open for business though — truck and auto repair, both

The grant also includes funding to take Kirtland's "Range 2000," a computerized firearms training program, to 10 northern Michigan counties for in-service purposes.

Kirtland received the largest law enforcement training grant awarded by the MJTC for 1998.

The second grant is for corrections training and amounts to \$34,954. This grant will fund a local corrections academy program to train officers for work in county jails. It is a pilot program in response to requests from area jail administrators.

The grant also includes funding for a 40-hour "train-the-trainer" program to upgrade the skills of local corrections officers to state trainer certification levels.

In addition, the corrections grant will fund a series of 16-hour defensive tactics programs for personnel officers and managerial staff employed in probation and parole.

The grants were written by KCC Criminal Justice Director Jerry W. Boerema and Criminal Justice Division Assistant Cindy Gibbs.

Group seeks severance taxes returned to counties

GOALIES (Gas, Oil And Land Impact Environment Statewide), is an *ad hoc* group of local governmental officials and others who share a common belief that at least a portion of the severance taxes paid to the State of Michigan by the oil/gas industry should be returned to the counties of origin for use as discretionary funds.

"Our counties, especially those in northern and upper Michigan, are being systematically 'farmed' by the state and we aren't even being paid a sharecropper's fair portion of the proceeds," says Crawford County Commissioner Kathy Black, one of the organizers of the group. "With the increase in the expansion of the petroleum industry in our state, the local units of government have been forced to strain already overburdened budgets in order to deal with various impacts which have accompanied this expansion such as additional costs for road maintenance, extra staffing for environmental inspections and well permitting or other economic development or public safety concerns."

The group which currently includes members from Crawford, Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, Oscoda, Newaygo, Grand Traverse and Presque Isle Counties, plus others representing various townships or municipalities, MSUE and road commissions has been meeting since July, 1997. They have been gathering data and looking into the feasibility of various options available in order to pursue this matter further.

Options discussed and/or being explored include forming a new entity

under the Urban Cooperation Act, seeking an Attorney General's Opinion as to whether a constitutional issue may be involved in that counties with liquid minerals are treated differently than those with metallic ores, seeking relief by convincing key legislators to introduce new legislation, developing and preparing the necessary document requirements to place the question directly to the voters through a referendum initiative at the local or state level, or seeking relief through litigation.

"This is an issue which directly affects a majority of the counties in the entire state," says Black. "It is not a new concept, the idea of returning severance taxes to the counties of origin has been bantered around Lansing since the mid-1970s but has gotten nowhere."

It is time to look seriously at this issue again and resolve it. Perhaps it is time to go directly to the people of the State of Michigan and ask, to whom do the natural resources of this great state of ours belong, to the people or the state?"

GOALIES will be seeking input from your elected and appointed officials through the Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Association of Regions, Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Municipal League and other organizations.

Page 3A -- AVALANCHE -- Thursday, January 8, 1998

TOP Video movies

WHAT'S NEW ... WHO'S HOT

Steven Seagal
FIRE DOWN BELOW

Laurence Fishburne Andy Garcia
HOODLUM

Jack Palance Walter Matthau
OUT TO SEA

Mel Gibson Julia Roberts
CONSPIRACY THEORY

Walt Disney's
AIR BUD

Special effects movie of the year
SPAWN

Jodie Foster Matthew McConaughey
CONTACT

A magical family adventure
A SIMPLE WISH

Nicolas Cage John Cusack
CON AIR

Julia Roberts
MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING

The Mysterious Island
LAND BEFORE TIME 5

Some things don't go exactly as planned
THE HEIST

Brandan Fraser
GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE

Sandra Bullock Jason Patric
SPEED 2: CRUISE CONTROL

Tommy Lee Jones Will Smith
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•8 hours: The oxygen and carbon dioxide levels in your blood normalize.

•1 day: Your likelihood of having a heart attack decrease.

•2 days: Your sense of smell and taste improves. Nerve endings start to regrow.

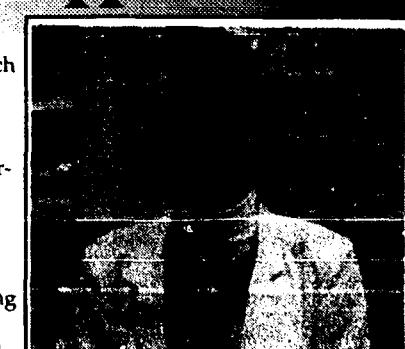
•2 weeks- 3 months: Your circulation becomes better and breathing improves; it becomes easier to walk.

•1-9 months: Coughing, sinus congestion, shortness of breath and fatigue decrease and you have more energy.

•1 year: Happy Birthday! Your excess risk of heart disease is now less than half what it was a year ago

•5 years: Your risk of cancer of lung, mouth, throat and esophagus is half that of a pack-a-day smoker.

•10 years: Your risk of dying of lung cancer is similar to non-smokers'. Precancerous cells have been replaced.



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OPINIONS

EDITOR

ALMANACK

by Richard Milliman

Wit and wisdom from Almanack 1997

THE NEW year of 1998 begins, the millennium looms ever closer... an excellent chance to wander barefoot among snippets of wit and wisdom presented in The Almanack during the last 12 months.

* * *

ON OPEN selections forcing top candidates to reject public jobs: "That means, of course, that most presidents of Michigan public universities right now are less than the best available for their jobs, because they were selected under the open process, and wouldn't have been chosen had secret candidates been available. That may or may not be true, but it's strange to hear sitting university presidents and their backers spouting the argument.

On President Clinton's potential rank in history: "Mr. Clinton has things too good right now. People are happy with him. The economy is good. The world is generally at peace. How can he earn the top rating when he has no dragons to slay? His task is really a very simple one. Just don't screw things up. If he can handle that rather simple chore, Bill Clinton may turn out to be a pretty good president after all. It won't get his face on Mt. Rushmore, but it will make a lot of Americans very happy indeed."

On a part time legislature. "An

even more effective reform (than term limits) would be to return to a part-time legislature, where lawmakers are citizens first... and state legislators only secondarily... Such a reform will not be adopted by the Michigan legislature. Like term limits, part time lawmaking will have to come from citizen initiative. It would work well in Michigan."

* * *

ON TERM limits: "It's not fair to judge term limits by the transitional period. Once the disruption of the next few years is past, it may turn out just fine that the legislature is composed of folks who take on the job for a few years, then go back home to live under the laws they have created. Citizenship, not politics, may become paramount in the process. That's what's behind the whole idea."

On the Kelly Flinn matter: "When it was lionizing Lt. Flinn to anyone who would listen, the Air Force didn't count on its heroine being unable or unwilling to rein in her hormones on command. The Air Force took advantage of Kelly Flinn, her gender and her abilities, and she in turn took advantage of the opportunities the Air Force offered. No problem there. But rules are rules. Lt. Flinn knew what the rules were. She

chose to defy them. The Air Force chose to follow them. They deserve each other."

* * *

ON CIGARET advertising: "As a nation, we seem a bit paranoid about tobacco... Our national policy is this: Raising tobacco is good for the country, but using it is bad for the people... if advertising a product is to be outlawed, then so should its use... and more importantly, any taxpayer subsidy for tobacco in any way should be halted immediately and made retroactive if possible."

ON FLAG burning: "... it is the idea that should be sacred, not the cloth that displays the pattern and the colors. It's the principles that matter and must be protected, not the flag itself... In our system, it is the minority view which must be allowed airing and even protection. The majority needs only protection from itself."

ON THE U.S. Constitution: "More than 100 constitutional amendments have been introduced in the Congress this year. And many of us thought judges were the only ones trying to change the work of the country's founders."

* * *

ON PROMISE Keepers: "Naysayers to Promise Keepers may be warning about what could be rather

than about what is... Strengthening the family is a major goal of Promise Keepers. Domination by either partner defeats that goal... When and if Promise Keepers changes direction will be time enough to sound alarms about what could be. But until then, why not take advantage of the positive results so far. Accept what is for what is, and don't buy devils that may never exist."

ON starting school after Labor Day: "The maddening fact is that it all makes sense — both sides of the controversy. Which also means not everybody will be happy, no matter how it comes out. Over it all, one salient consideration stands out: Let's not forget the kids, which is easy to do in a dispute of this sort."

ON Thanksgiving: "... I know from where these blessings come, and where my thanks should be directed ... but if I said so right out loud these days in public places such as some classrooms, I might be breaking file law. For that ironic twist on the meaning of our first Thanksgiving Day, I am not thankful at all."

* * *

Richard Milliman is a veteran newspaperman and a contributing columnist to several Michigan newspapers.

Writers praise AuSable book

To the editor,

We received our copy by mail of "Experience the Tradition — the First Fifty Years of the AuSable River Canoe Marathon" as we are wintering in Arizona.

We think the book is interesting and put together nicely.

Jon Thompson and Nancy Lemmen have done a great job. Our hats go off to you.

Lloyd and Helen Crawford

REPORT FROM LANSING

by Governor John Engler

Michigan improves child protection

This week at the St. Vincent Home for Children in Lansing, I signed legislation improving the lives of vulnerable children in Michigan. The new laws will strengthen investigations of child abuse and neglect by state social workers and law enforcement and help assure that children who cannot be reunited with their families find safe, secure homes as quickly as possible. The legislation implements 42 recommendations made by Lt. Governor Connie Binsfeld's Children's Commission.

To be sure, the Lt. Gov. Binsfeld's Children's Commission had a monumental charge: to improve the lives of Michigan's children and their families. And they did.

This wide-ranging legislation makes dramatic improvements to the child protection system — from quicker and mandatory termination of parental rights in cases of severe physical or sexual abuse to "Kinship Care," where children are placed

with family members whenever possible. We have also put in place a process for the state and local law enforcement to work together on investigations and, under certain circumstances, to provide for the mandatory termination of parental rights.

Michigan has long been a leader in protecting children and these changes will help assure we continue to lead.

All children deserve to grow up safe from harm, in loving, supportive families. We are committed to do all we can to help families provide that care and when they can't — or won't — to provide the necessary safety net.

Lt. Gov. Binsfeld deserves particular praise for her leadership on children's issues. Since the day she became Lt. Governor, Binsfeld has made the well-being of children her number-one focus.

Following is a summary of how this new legislation improves Michigan's child protection system:

- Requires the termination of parental rights in egregious cases of child abuse and neglect.

- Requires the courts and Family Independence Agency to publish annual "report cards" evaluating their performance on child abuse and neglect cases.

- Strengthens the role of the child's attorney.

- Assures that whenever it is safe to do so, children remain with family members.

- Expands foster care review boards statewide and allows the boards to review changes in foster care placements.

- Gives priority for substance abuse services to families with children who have been removed or are at risk of removal.

- Requires that the Family Independence Agency, prosecutors and local law enforcement officials conduct joint child abuse and neglect investigations.

- Creates local child death review teams to review child fatalities and a state child death advisory committee to identify steps that can be taken to prevent child deaths.

Guest editorial

Michigan's high schools are tops in sportsmanship

The attention which state and national media recently have given to sportsmanship is appropriate, causing one Michigan resident to call the MHSAA to say, "You are starting to move the mountain."

Indeed, many people are doing many significant things to improve sportsmanship in educational athletics, or at least to slow the decline to the kinds of sportsmanship observed on other levels of sports. Improving or maintaining sportsmanship in school sports is not one agency's responsibility. What is required — and what exists in Michigan — is a comprehensive plan of many components, a coordinated effort involving many people, and a consistent program where we never let up.

It is widely accepted that we presently have in place programs which make the participants at educational athletic events — the student-athletes and coaches — these best-behaved people in the gym or stadium. It is also widely acknowledged that our efforts must now turn toward those in the stands, especially those parents and recent graduates of schools who feel little or no obligation to act responsibly at these events.

However, the notion that the MHSAA, rather than its local member schools, should step in and penalize spectators who misbehave at these events, misses the mark. If a spectator is unruly at an MMAA tournament, management will see that the person is removed. But if the unruly behavior occurs at one of the many thousands of junior high

nents:

1. Education: In a multitude of ways, for more than a decade, the MHSAA has described to its constituents the appropriate standards of sportsmanship for educational athletics. No state high school association has done more of putting its money where its mouth is. At no cost to schools the MHSAA provides its member schools with a comprehensive sportsmanship kit every year, advertising sticks for programs, public address announcements for games, and posters.

The nation's largest sportsmanship summit was the one in Lansing sponsored by the MHSAA last September, attracting 800 people, with the MHSAA underwriting the cost of every attendee by \$35. The statewide summit, which will be repeated in 1998, has spawned mini-summits across Michigan, as well as other local initiatives.

2. Encouragement: Through awards programs at MHSAA District, Regional and Final Tournaments and similar programs of leagues and local school districts, hundreds of communities, schools, teams and individuals have been recognized and reaffirmed for their exemplary efforts to maintain or improve sportsmanship.

3. Enforcement: In 1994, the MHSAA adopted the nation's most comprehensive definition of taunting, much of which subsequently found its way to the national playing rules for high school sports, and even to some of the college codes. In Michigan, our penalty for taunting is automatic ejection from contests, and disqualification from the next day of competition. In 1996, the MHSAA adopted rules that disqualify from season-ending MHSAA tournaments, any player who was ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct three or more times during that season, a coach who was ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct two or more times during that season, and any player or coach who was ejected even once for spitting at, hitting, slapping, kicking, pushing or intentionally and aggressively contacting any official at any time during that season.

4. Exposure: The worst and most chronic offenders of poor sportsmanship are identified when

the MHSAA lists in its publications the names of schools that receive three or more negative officials reports in a season and the name of all coaches who were ejected from contests.

The MHSAA is not a staff and office building in East Lansing, but a membership of more than 1300 public and non-public junior high/middle schools and high schools. MHSAA schools and staff together seek a balance where local control is respected and local responsibility is accepted.

If schools wanted the MHSAA office to have more rules and more penalties, those schools could confer such authority to the MHSAA staff. But schools recognize the problem is not with a state-wide organization, but at the local level, and primarily in the spectator sections at regular season contests. That problem must be addressed when and

where it occurs, on the spot at the local level.

As the first state high school association in the country that does not assess membership dues or tournament entry fees, the MHSAA is not about to start assessing fines. There is no evidence that in those states where fines are assessed that sportsmanship is better or that those state associations are stronger.

We are doomed to failure in improving sportsmanship if all we do is blame television and professional sports for our problems and look to a state organization for the solution. It is only when we take personal responsibility for the problem and solution — in our communities, our schools, our homes and our individual lives — that will we improve the standards of sportsmanship in a world of declining civility and structure. Sportsmanship is a way of life that begins at home.

Betty asks...

Question of the week:

California passed a law where smoking is banned in all bars & casinos. What do you think? Do you think it will have effect on business?



Deb Spencer

Grayling, MI

"No without a doubt, I think it's a bad idea. I think it will hurt business. Because people want to go out and have a good time, the bottom line is you have no choices. I think there should be a smoking and non-smoking section, that way people would have a choice."



Patti NouBert

Grayling, MI

"I think it sucks! I don't know how to put it nicely."



Carrie Weiso

Grayling, MI

"I was just out there and most of the businesses were already that way. It didn't seem to bother anyone. If you were caught flicking an ash or cigarette out the window you would get a fine."



Cheryl Russell

Grayling, MI

"I think it would have an effect on business here because people are not use to it. They need to get use to it."

There you have it... I think our rights are slowly being taken away. We have a choice of religion and the right to vote, or do we?

Betty Pearl

Advertising Representative

Crawford County Avalanche

This week's question was asked Friday in the Grayling area

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BRIEFS

Grayling Lions/Lioness Dinner Meeting

Grayling Lions/Lioness dinner meeting breakers set for Jan. 21, 1998 at 6:30 p.m.

SHARE sign-up Jan. 12

There will be a SHARE sign-up Jan. 12, 1998 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Commission on Aging. The SHARE pick-up will be Jan. 23, 1998 from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints on N. Down River Road.

Welcome Wagon Newcomers Club

The Welcome Wagon Newcomers Club will meet Monday, Jan. 12 at 6 p.m. for a pizza party at Hanson Hills. For more information call Betty Mansfield at 348-8562 or Rose Smith at 348-5598.

Grayling Knights sponsor spelling bee, hoop shoot

Two annual local youth events, the Knights of Columbus State Spelling Bee and the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest, will be held on Saturday, Jan. 17.

The spelling bee contest will begin at 10 a.m. at the Grayling K of C Hall.

For the free throw contest, participants should arrive at the Grayling Middle School gym at 1 p.m.

The K of C State Spelling Bee Contest is divided into two levels. Level one is for students in grades fourth through sixth. Level two is for students grades seventh through ninth.

Spelling bee word lists are available at the Grayling Elementary School and Middle School offices or by calling Marilyn Neuberger at 348-3080. Middle School teacher Ellen Thompson is this year's celebrity pronouncer.

Four winners advance from each

level of competition to Districts held at Gaylord. State finals are March 28 in Standish for level one and on March 29 in Fenton for level two.

The 1998 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is open to any boy or girl age 10 to 14 as of Jan. 1. Winners progress through local, district, diocesan and state competitions.

International champs are determined by scores from state level contests.

Participants compete at respective age and gender divisions. Last year more than 218,000 sharpshooters participated at 3,453 local competitions.

Both the spelling bee and free throw contests are free of charge. All entrants receive a certificate of participation and winners will be awarded trophies. Additional information on either of these K of C sponsored events is available from Marilyn Neuberger at 348-3080.

NEW GMS TEACHER—Craig Hofman, who joined the middle school faculty this school year, works with his sixth grade class. Photo by Maryann Sirrine

Craig Hofman new teacher at Grayling Middle School

by Nancy Lemmen

Craig Hofman, former free lance sportswriter for *The Crawford County Avalanche*, has been hired by the Crawford AuSable School District (CASD) to teach language arts, reading and social studies on the sixth grade team and coach seventh grade girls' basketball at Grayling Middle School.

Hofman earned a bachelor of science degree with a major in history and a minor in political science from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. He taught sixth grade social studies for two years in Wilmington, Ill., before moving to Grayling with his wife Lisa, and was a substitute teacher and full-time paraprofessional at GMS before accepting his current position.

He said he accepted a job with the CASD because "the teamwork of

teachers, administrators, support staff and students was exciting and positive to see."

He said he hopes to "give students an exciting and varied educational experience which will help them grow and improve year after year."

"Craig Hofman is hardworking and dedicated," said Doniel Pummell, GMS assistant principal.

"He adds a special humor and uniqueness to his sixth grade team. He is always willing to put forth an extra effort if it will benefit the students of GMS. (He) is a wonderful addition to the professional teaching team."

When not working, Hofman enjoys spending time with his pets (dogs Jodey and Sam and cats Baxter and Tucker), reading, sportswriting and playing Seg-a.

He replaced Karen McDonald, who is on leave.

\$750 million landfill deal

by Shirley D. Schmoeck

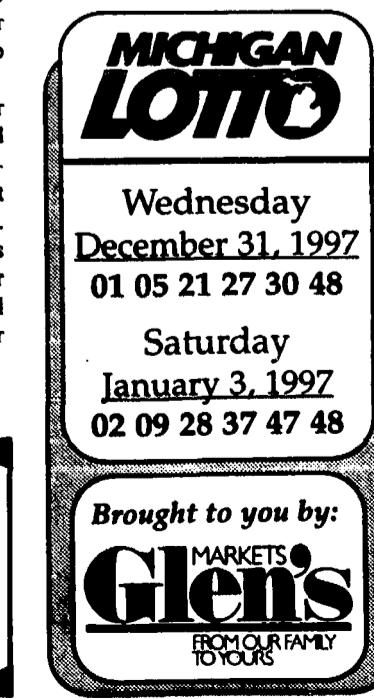
The recent announcement that a Texas company had purchased the assets of City Management Corp., a Detroit-based independent waste company, was made without the selling price.

That overall selling price has been disclosed to be \$750 million, including the Grayling-area assets.

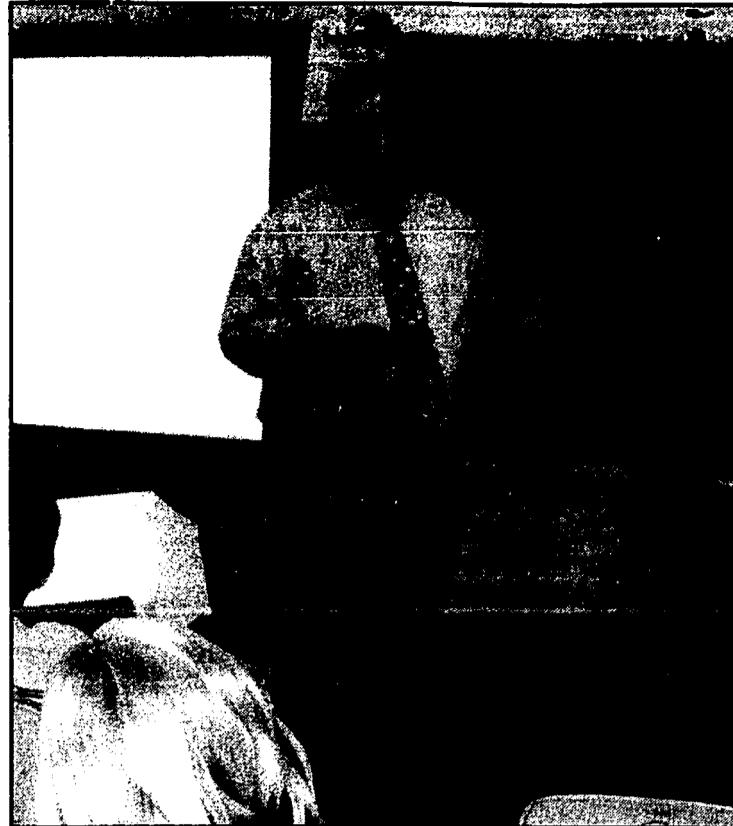
It was no apparent secret that City Management was for sale, the *Waste News* reported in its Dec. 15 issue. This publication is one which reports on solid waste management for the industry. The article also mentioned that USA Waste of Texas, which bought the Detroit company's solid waste operations, "caught observers off guard."

The publication reported that Anthony Soave, owner of City Management, had accumulated within the waste operation 12 transfer stations, 20 collection operations, and nine municipal solid waste landfills — all in Michigan — and served 500,000 customers.

The *Waste News* also noted that the City Management firm operates construction and demolition debris landfill in southeastern United States and has two landfills under development in that region.



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Submit your public events to the Crawford County Avalanche

348-6811

Deadline: Thursday noon

JANUARY 1998

Pre-registration for adult ed begins Monday, January 12, 1998

THURS 8	•MINIMAL FEE blood pressure and blood sugar screenings @ Commission on Aging, 11 am - 12 noon. •TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) @ Mercy Hospital Riverside Room, 5 pm. For more information call Mary Kay, 348-1398. •FRESH BBB vs. Pinconning, away, 6 pm. •VAR WRESTLING vs. Standish Sterling, home, 6 pm.
FRI 9	•VAR & JV BBB vs. Oscoda, away, 6:15 pm.
SAT 10	•WINTER MIDDLE SCHOOL State Forensics Meet @ Ann Arbor.
SUN 11	•ATTEND THE CHURCH of your choice today.
MON 12	•KIWANIS CLUB meeting @ Iron Gate Restaurant, 12 noon. •WELCOME WAGON newsmen meeting @ Mercy Hospital, 6 pm. Call Betty Mansfield or Rose Smith, 348-5598, for more information •PRE-REGISTRATION for Adult Ed @ HS, 9 am - 9 pm. •HS BBB vs. Oscoda, 7th away, 8th home. •FRESH BBB vs. Oscoda, home, 6 pm. •JV VOLLEYBALL vs. Oscoda, away, 6 pm.
TUES 13	•CRAWFORD COUNTY RESOURCE COUNCIL meeting @ Mercy Hospital private dining room, 12 noon. •AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY meeting @ Citizens Bank, 1 pm. •GPA MEETING @ Iron Gate Restaurant, 12 noon. •PRE-REGISTRATION for Adult Ed @ HS, 9 am - 9 pm. •VAR WRESTLING @ Kalkaska, 6 pm. •VAR & JV BBB vs. Bay City John Glenn, home, 6:15 pm.
WED 14	•ROTARY MEETING @ Patti's Towne House, 12 noon. •WEIGHT WATCHER'S meeting @ St. Francis Episcopal Church, M-72 West; weigh-in 4:45 pm; meeting, 5:30 pm. For more information call Mary, 348-5306. •LIONS CLUB meeting @ Breaker's Steak House, 6:30 pm. •HS EXAMS •PRE-REGISTRATION for Adult Ed @ HS, 9 am - 9 pm. •HS BBB vs. Roscommon, 8th away, 7th home, 5 pm. •JV VOLLEYBALL vs. Bay City John Glenn, away, 6 pm. •VAR VOLLEYBALL vs. Standish Sterling & Ogemaw Heights, home, 6 pm. •2ND GRADE CONCERT @ AP cafeteria, 7 pm.

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The Bible Speaks

Coming World Peace

When Jesus Christ comes back to earth again, all nations will accept and worship Him as God. Israel will welcome Him as her Messiah and religious conflict will end, because Christ will rule the earth from the throne of David. (Isaiah 9:7 with Luke 1:32)

Christ will fulfill these Messianic prophecies: (Zechariah 13:6) "And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends." (Zechariah 12:10) "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall he in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn." (Zechariah 14:16) "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles."

How will Jesus Christ end the present world-wide opposition to Him, thereby bringing in this world peace?

His peace will bring in righteous authority. (Isaiah 32:1) "Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment." His Peace will be established by constraint: (Revelation 2:27) "And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father." Until His return to earth, Jesus Christ will rule in Heaven with the Father. (Revelation 12:5) "And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up into God, and to his throne." The rod of iron with which Christ will rule the world at His return is His own word. (Revelation 19:15) "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."

We need not wait for the return of Jesus Christ to know peace by His Word. Peace begins on the inside, not the outside. Jesus Christ left us His peace. (John 14:27) "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled,

neither let it be afraid." He made peace for us by the blood of His cross. (Colossians 1:20) "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven." (Romans 5:1) "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Hebrews 13:20-21) "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, (21) Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." My friend, peace is available to you now by faith in the person, work, and word of our Lord Jesus Christ. Will you begin this New Year with the peace of Jesus Christ ruling in your heart and life?

Pastor "B"

Please pray for the ministry of our church Websites at: <http://freeway.net/~cba/> and at <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/1263/>

From the Calvary Baptist Church

Weyerhaeuser Foundation gives \$2,000 grant to Hospice of Michigan

On Friday, Dec. 12, Robert Kimball presented a \$2,000 check on behalf of the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation to Hospice of Michigan in Roscommon for their Children's Grief program. The Foundation responded to a grant request made by Hospice of Michigan. Part of the Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life in communities where Weyerhaeuser has a presence.

"Often when children lose a parent or loved one they need help expressing and understanding what they are feeling in order to heal,"

rounding the Roscommon area. In addition to core hospice care, they also offer bereavement programs that serve their patients, families, and anyone in the community in need of grief assistance. Bereavement services include special resources for children.

"Often when children lose a parent or loved one they need help expressing and understanding what they are feeling in order to heal,"

said Cindy Witkowski Bereavement/Volunteer Coordinator. Hospice of Michigan's bereavement staff helps children by providing an outlet for their feelings through activities such as art and writing projects.

The grant from the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation will help support these children's programs that are largely funded by grants and community donations.

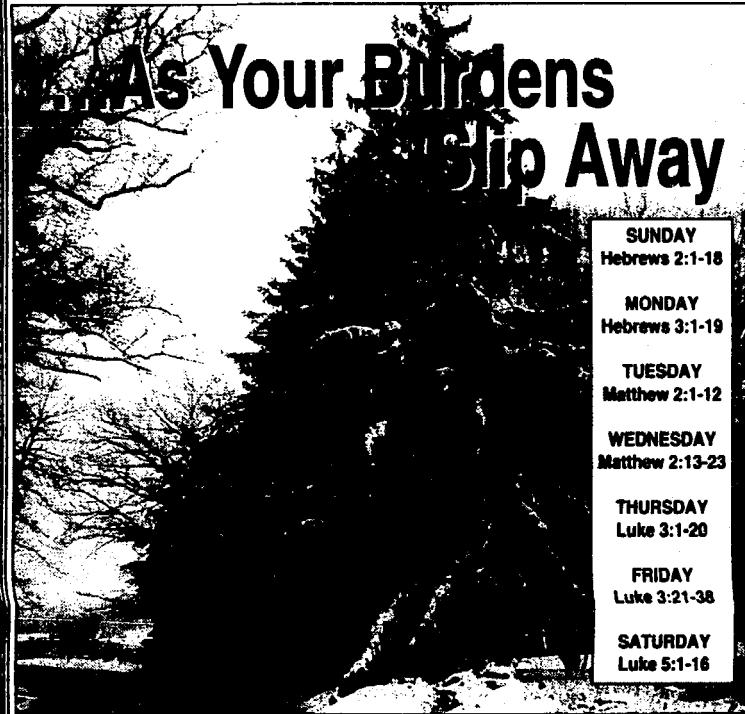


DONATION -- Left to Right: Robert Kimball, Weyerhaeuser employee; Shiela Simpson, hospice integrator; Cindy Witkowski, bereavement/volunteer coordinator; and Linda Robilliard, bereavement/information coordinator.

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Church Directory



It seems a phenomenon of nature...such a tall and massive tree humbled, limbs bent toward the ground by snowflakes so tiny and light that they float through the gray winter sky. Yet, as they pile one upon the other, they become a heavy burden. Somehow the tree looks sad.

Yet, this is no time to be sad, for our Creator sends the sunshine and, hour by hour, the icy burden melts from each branch until the tree in its entirety has bounced back to once more decorate the winter landscape with welcome greenery.

Sometimes, life seems to leave us cold and stooped by cares that pile upon our shoulders. Don't despair, for God has a plan and a purpose for your life. Trust Him. "Stand firm, and do not let yourselves be burdened again..." Galatians 5:1

Worship each week in your chosen church or synagogue.

Hear God's Word in prayer and in praise as your burdens slip away.

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Christian Science Society
209 First St. - Suite 103 - Gaylord
Sunday Service 10:30 am
April through October

2nd Wednesday 8 pm

Michelson Memorial United Methodist Church

Pastor J. Douglas Paterson

400 Michigan Ave. • 348-2974

(temporarily held at AuSable Primary)

Sunday Worship 10 am

Sunday School 11:15 am

Coffee Fellowship 12 noon

Bible Study (Wed.) 10 am

Seventh Day Adventist

Pastor David Stramel

Phone 348-4445

Services held Saturday at Camp AuSable off

M-72 East (1st building on right inside camp entrance).

Church Service 9:30 am

Sabbath School 10:30 am

Prayer Meeting Tues 7 pm

Burning Bush Tabernacle

Pastor Patricia Petrie, 348-1278

501 E. Michigan Ave., Grayling

Sunday School 10 am

Sunday Service & Children's Church 11 am

Sunday Evening Service 6 pm

Monday Prayer Meeting 7 pm

Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm

Thursday Discipleship Class 7 pm

Grayling Assembly of God

Rev. Ron Voelker, Pastor

701 S. I-75 Business Loop

Church 348-8885 • Parsonage 348-2588

Sunday School 9:30 am

Morning Worship 10:30 am

Evening Service 6 pm

Wednesday - Family Night 7 pm

Adult - Youth - Children 7 pm

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Pastor Larry A. Cook

600 North Elm Street, Gaylord

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Primary 11 am

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Disabled veterans to receive increase in benefits

Many beneficiaries of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) compensation and pension programs will receive an increase of 2.1 percent in monthly benefit payments to be mailed later this month. The cost-of-living (COLA) adjustment affecting eligible beneficiaries on VA benefits rolls as of Dec. 1 was included in legislation recently signed by President Clinton.

"Monthly payments to more than 65,000 Michigan veterans currently receiving disability compensation will now range from \$95 for a single veteran with a 10-percent disability rating to \$1,964 for a single veteran with a 100-percent disability rating," according to James A. Whitson, Director of the VA Regional Office in Detroit. "Veterans whose service-connected disabilities are rated 30 percent or higher may receive additional allowances for dependents, based on the number of dependents."

and extent of disability."

Another 10,000 veterans will receive an increase in their pensions -- an income supplement program for wartime veterans whose permanent and total disabilities are not service-connected and which brings their incomes up to established levels.

The increase also applies to approximately 6,900 survivors of veterans who died of a service-connected disability -- the parents, spouses and children who receive benefits under VA's dependency and indemnity compensation program. More than 8,000 survivors of Michigan wartime veterans whose deaths were unrelated to service or a service-connected condition also will benefit from the increase in death pension benefits they receive as low-income families in need of support, up to an established level.



EAGLES BACK D.A.R.E. — The Grayling Eagles Club 3465 has contributed \$1,000 to the Crawford County D.A.R.E. program to fight drugs among children. Pictured at a recent Eagles meeting are, from left: Trustee Rod Wade, Nick Michaelescu, Lt. Jim Parker, Worthy President Waldo Mansfield, Sheriff Dave Lovely, Chaplain Pat Benardo and Past Worthy President John Kuszak. Photo supplied by the Eagles.

Snowshoeing becomes one of America's fastest growing winter sports activities

by Ben Carr

About the Author — A lifetime snowshoeing enthusiast, Ben Carr and his wife Pam, live in Crawford County and own both the Michigan Snowshoe Center and Higgins Hills RV Park. Ben also teaches Business at Kirtland Community College.

Winter can seem endless for those who haven't quite found the right way to get out and enjoy the abundant beauty this region has to offer. With its thousands of acres of woods, fields and forests the AuSable River area provides the outdoor enthusiast with a myriad of recreational choices to participate in during the winter season.

The many snowmobile trails that crisscross the counties give high-speed access from one town to another and the cross-country ski trails provide another means to get out and enjoy the day.

But for those who really want to enjoy the unspoiled beauty of the area without being limited to groomed trails, it is time to discover the simple and easy pleasure of snowshoeing.

From its early beginnings over three centuries ago, when it was a vital means of winter transport for Native Americans, trappers and hunters, snowshoeing has evolved into a pleasure filled winter activity that is being discovered by more and more people each year. The traditional wooden snowshoe has evolved into a modern, lightweight snowshoe that makes walking through the woods an easy and pleasurable experience.

Intended to displace your body weight over a greater surface area the snowshoe lets you easily walk over the top of the snow without sinking in.

The pleasures of this activity are found in its simplicity. The binding systems that hold your feet in the snowshoe don't require special boots and the easy latching systems let you put your snowshoes on or take them off while still wearing your gloves. It only takes about four walking steps to become an expert snowshoer and the streamline design of the snowshoe allows you to walk normally while wearing them. The size of the average snowshoe is about two feet long so transportation isn't a problem either. They easily fit in the trunk of your car or behind the seat in your truck.

But perhaps the greatest benefit snowshoes offer is unlimited access to the wilderness. With snowshoes you can go anywhere, trails or not. And this is what provides the pleasure. Their silent travel enables you to walk in areas others haven't gone, to see more wildlife and to explore the pristine beauty of an area.

Snowshoes come in many different sizes and shapes, and it is important to find the right pair. There are several considerations that need to be taken into account. The type of use planned for snowshoeing is of importance, as is body weight.

Most snowshoe manufacturers make different lines of snowshoes

that range from special high-performance shoes to the standard walking shoe. Differing features on these models include special binding systems, type of decking material, shape and size of the snowshoe, and even the method of construction.

Most snowshoes constructed today are not the traditional wooden shoes that many associate with snowshoeing. Instead, the modern snowshoe is typically made of a lightweight, high strength aluminum frame and a solid, non-tearing deck fabric.

Bindings have evolved from leather straps to weather resistant harnesses that comfortably allow you to securely snuggly your boot onto the shoe. Fortunately, for the traditionalist, wooden snowshoes with rawhide decking and leather bindings are still made, right here in Michigan, by the Iverson Snowshoe Company.

Planned use for the snowshoe is also important when considering a pair. For most, a hiking or walking shoe will meet the need. These shoes will typically have a foot binding system that will allow you to travel easily over terrain typical of this area. A small crampon usually found on the underside of the snowshoe enables a safe walk over icy areas.

Finally, individual's weight will be a factor that needs to be considered. Most snowshoes are constructed with an upper weight limit that they are intended to carry for best performance in the snow. It is important to

remember that this weight limit reflects what clothing is worn when snowshoeing. So add a few pounds on for your clothing and anything else one may be planning to use snowshoes for (gun, backpack, child, and so on).

All ages can enjoy this activity. There are youth sized models that are available so the whole family can go. And for seniors, balance concerns can be compensated through the use of snowshoe poles that are carried similarly to ski poles.

With the growing popularity of the activity, snowshoes have become more accessible. Many sporting goods stores have begun to carry shoes, as have several of the ski rental operations in the area.

While snowshoeing does provide a great way to spend the days of winter outdoors with the family, a wonderful way to participate in low-impact fitness and costs a lot less than most winter activities its greatest benefit can be found in opening up the unseen beauty of winter that is found throughout the AuSable area.

Play it safe ice fishing this winter

The estimated two million Michigan anglers who will take to the ice this season should be prepared with proper equipment and follow safety rules, advises AAA Michigan.

"Spending a few dollars on safety items when buying minnows at your bait shop can spell the difference between surviving an emergency or becoming a victim when ice fishing this winter," said Jerry Basch AAA Michigan Community Safety Service manager.

"Ice creepers worn over boots cost about \$25. They help anglers walk over slick spots and aid anglers in trouble to get a foothold on solid ice to pull themselves out of a hole," he said. Picks—spikes embedded in the ends of handlebar-like grips and connected with a coiled tether—cost about \$10 and also work.

Anglers should consider purchasing fishing coats with built-in life vests that not only keep them afloat, but help protect against hypothermia, or rapid body temperature loss.

Basch advises anglers to pack survival gear, including a cellular phone and/or GPS (Global Positioning System) or course plotter compass to avoid getting lost, a length of rope, flares and flashlight, collapsible shelter, hand and foot warmers or portable heater and survival blanket. He suggests wearing sunglasses to prevent snowblindness.

Other safety tips:

• Treat all ice as if it's unsafe. Don't cross unfamiliar ice without testing it. Check with local bait shops before heading onto any lake.

• Avoid alcohol, which affects

body temperature and judgment.

- Avoid most ice-covered rivers. River mouths and currents can develop thin ice or open waters.
- Follow paths used by other anglers. Watch for fresh, frozen-over holes cut for ice shanties. Be cautious on ice with heavy or slushy snow, which can cause thin spots and can indicate hidden fissures. Spring-fed lakes also have unsafe ice caused by the movement of water.
- Watch the weather. Storms can cut visibility and winds can create pressure cracks on the Great Lakes, stranding fishermen.
- If with a group, spread out to distribute weight. If ice begins to crack, lie down and crawl to safety.

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Deer & Hunting
Weekly Update

Here we are into another year already, not much to write about so far this winter with no snow and very little ice. I guess we can mention deer hunting season has now ended. Also, ruffed grouse season is over. The 1998 turkey permit applications are out now and they must be in by Feb. 1st. You can apply at any license dealer for a \$4.00 fee. If you are drawn you must buy a turkey license, cost is \$13.00. The areas and quotas are about the same as last year!

Some of the brave fishermen are ice fishing now. But, the ice is not good in some places, so be very careful!

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Nelsons celebrate 50th anniversary Dec. 27

The Nelson Family is proud to announce the 50th Golden Anniversary celebration of Robert and Victoria Nelson, a lifetime resident of Grayling Michigan. This celebration was held on Dec. 27 at the Treetops Sylvan Resort. In attendance were Robert's mother A. Alice Nelson, their children Sally and husband Kenneth Marsh of Oxford, Deborah and husband Ayleet Wease of Royal Oak, and

son William Nelson. Daughter Gayle and husband Scott, who reside in Hawaii could not attend but send their love. Also in attendance, out of seven grandchildren, were: Nicholas and Max Wease, Lee and E. Mitchell Nelson, Robert's brother Richard and wife Barbara Nelson and children, brother Roger and wife Sharon Nelson and children, Victoria's sister Mary Lou and husband Ted Cochran.



Bonnie Odell

Kim McClain

Odell, McClain join Cornell

Jim Vanderlaan, owner of Cornell Real Estate Company and Clarence "Curly" LaMotte, broker, recently announced the addition to their sales team, Bonnie Odell and Kim McClain.

Bonnie Odell has been in the real estate business since 1995. Although she specializes in buyer agency, Bonnie also lists residential and recreational properties for sale.

Bonnie is married to David Odell, has two grown children, Jamie and Somer, and two miniature Dachshunds, Pee Wee and Penelope. They make their home in the area since 1980.

Kim McClain has been in the real estate business since 1994. She had seven previous years in advertising, marketing, and sales experience. Kim recently completed 40 hours of "Appraising for Single Family Residence" which qualifies her for a Real Estate Valuation Specialist license from the state. She is also working to complete her Brokers License.

Kim is married to Jim McClain, and they have two children, Mickey and Melanie. They reside in Grayling. Kim is a Grayling native, a graduate of Grayling High School, attended Kirtland Community College, is a long-time member of the Grayling Youth Booster Club.

MERCY HOSPITAL BIRTHS

Shawn and Joanne Krayes of Grayling announce the arrival of Shae-lin Takeo Krayes born Dec. 20, 1997.

Michael Bailey II and Misty Wilhide of Roscommon announce

the arrival of Ian Scot Bailey born Dec. 22, 1997.

David and Kay Petrie of Grayling announce the arrival of Nicholas Dale Petrie born Dec. 23, 1997.

John and Rebecca McNicholl, II of Roscommon announce the arrival of Rhys James McNicholl born Dec. 23, 1997.

Timothy and Judith Beckwith of Grayling announce the arrival of Tyler Merritt Beckwith born Dec. 24, 1997.

MILITARY NEWS

Navy Seaman Recruit James E. Adams, a 1997 graduate of Roscommon High School, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Adams completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, fire fighting, water safety and survival and

shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis is also placed on physical fitness.

Adams and other recruits also received instruction on the Navy's core values — honor, courage and commitment — and how to apply them in their military performance and personal conduct. Adams joins 55,000 men and women who will enter the Navy this year from all over the country.

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Former city employee sues over retirement benefits

by Shirley D. Schmoock
Special Writer

Nearly a year and a half ago, former Housing Department employee Walter Galvani of Grayling, attempted to begin collecting his retirement benefits from the City of Grayling. He had worked for the City of Grayling in the Housing Department for approximately 14 years prior to his termination.

In a lawsuit filed on Nov. 21, 1997 in the U.S. Eastern District Court in Bay City, Galvani named as defendants — City of Grayling, Grayling Housing Department, Principal Mutual Life Insurance Company, and Municipal Employees Retirement Services (MERS).

In the complaint, Galvani asserts that he had "made several attempts at getting his pension benefit paid to him, which included contacts with Grayling Housing Commission, the City of Grayling City Council members, and also contact with Defendant, Municipal Employees Retirement System — all to no avail."

The complaint says that, "employment with the Grayling Housing Commission ended on or about March 31, 1996. And, that during the approximate time frame of plaintiff's (Galvani's) employment terminating, the Grayling Housing Commission and the City of Grayling transferred administration of their retirement plans from Principal Mutual Life Insurance Company to the Municipal Employees Retirement Systems."

Galvani's situation has further been compounded by the fact that the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) representative, who was assigned to the matter, was killed in a traffic accident sometime after the pension funds were transferred to that company.

The complaint further alleges that "MERS also made attempts to obtain information from the Grayling Housing Commission and the City of Grayling, which (Galvani

claims) they had in their possession or control, to facilitate payment to the plaintiff of his retirement benefits — again to no avail."

The Complaint says, "Upon information and belief, there is nothing preventing the distribution of Galvani's pension except the transfer of information to MERS, which Galvani does not possess, but which the Grayling Housing Commission, City of Grayling, and Principal Mutual Life insurance Company possess or can procure."

In Count II of the complaint, Galvani is contending that "the City of Grayling, through its agent, City Manager Jerry Morford, was made aware of the requirement that information needed to be forward to MERS to process pension/retirement benefits, but "the contract the Plaintiff has was breached by the interference and lack of appropriate action taken by the City of Grayling and through its City Manager's actions and/or inaction in procuring the necessary information to facilitate payment of this benefit, even though requested by Galvani."

Both Galvani and the city contributed to the retirement plan during his approximately 14 years of employment. The "contract" which is cited in the complaint is an "annuity contract with provides for payment of a retirement benefit, and which was given contract #3 - 9138." Galvani claims as a vested party in this contract he was eligible and entitled to pension benefits.

In the complaint, Galvani says that he "does not have the expertise with the pension/retirement systems that the City of Grayling had, and in fact, reposed a great deal of trust and confidence in the City of Grayling to assist in the processing of his retirement funds."

The complaint says, he believes that "as an agency involved in the procurement, processing and servicing of the plaintiff's pension benefits, the City of Grayling owed a fiduciary duty to him to facility administration and payment of his pension and not to neglect its duties

to provide information and assistance to other agencies involved in the processing and payment of the plaintiff's pension."

On Dec. 9, the attorneys for the Grayling Housing Commission filed an appearance in the U.S. District court, requesting that the entire matter be remanded to the state court. The defendant's brief states that the lawsuit "pleads various common law causes of action, including breach of fiduciary duty, negligence, tortious interference with contractual relations and breach of contract."

It does not, the brief continues, "plead a cause of action which is in any way premised upon the constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States."

The defendant's attorneys also claim that because there is currently another case pending between these parties, that "it may be in the interest of justice and efficiency to consolidate the Plaintiff's two separate legal actions into one in the state court."

Attorneys for the Housing Commission then filed a Cross-Claim asserting "that cross-plaintiff (Housing Commission) has never administered or controlled the retirement benefits to which plaintiff is apparently entitled."

Happenings at the Center and announcements of things to come: Pantry Bingo every Friday from 1 to 2:30. Commodities on the 7th and

SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

by Jan Farley

Special thought for the week: You are not judged by how much you love by how much you are loved by others.

Happy New Year to everyone and we hope that this will be the best year ever! Try to make the best of your own situation, and put a hand out others who might be struggling just to get where you are!

Thoughts for the coming year...I know it is hard, when we get advanced in years, to see the bright side of an issue or situation, but we all must strive to put aside some of our differences with people and happenings; especially here at the Senior Center. You know there was only one perfect one and we just celebrated his birthday, so don't expect things to be perfect or people to be perfect. Make up your mind to have a good time and be happy, regardless of some minor quirk that sets your teeth ajar. Ignore it and go on with the day and your life! Don't let the small things or the small people get to you and spoil your day. Come and have a good time, because if you don't, it's your own doing!

Happenings at the Center and announcements of things to come: Pantry Bingo every Friday from 1 to 2:30. Commodities on the 7th and

"BK" Bingo at 12:30; Blood pressures and sugars taken from 11 to noon on the 8th; Frederic Satellite on the 9th; SHARE sign-up from 10 to 2 on the 12th; Speaker on Hospice at 12:15 on the 13th and Dance with Tina at 12:45; Birthday Luncheon at 12 on the 14th; Speaker on "Bio-feed Back" at 12:15 on the 15th; Lovells satellite, Legal Help at 1:30 on the 16th.

Congregate meals are served at noon and 5 Monday thru Thursday and at noon only on Friday. Fruit and vegetable salad bar on Tuesday; Soup served on Monday and Wednesday and bread, juice and milk offered each meal; Please try to make a reservation if you can by calling 348-7123. Menus are subject to change without notice.

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January - 1998
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8 - Beef Stew/Baked Ham
9 - Chicken Stir Fry/no dinner
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13 - Ham/Chicken Chow Mein
14 - Beef Tips & Noodles/Liver & Onions
15 - Chicken & Dumplings/Italian Pork
16 - Home Pride Steak/no dinner

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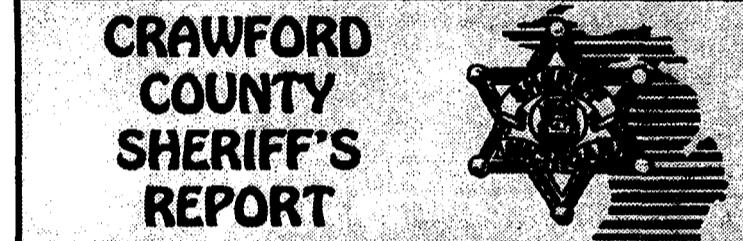
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The Sheriff's Department of Crawford County dealt with the following 106 incidents from Dec. 29 to Jan. 5:

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Mr. and Mrs. Corey Northrop

Richie, Northrop united in marriage

Lisa Marie Richie, daughter of Ray and Margaret Richie of Grayling, and Corey Ryan Northrop, son of Jerry and Linda Northrop of Grayling, were united in marriage on Aug. 9, 1997. The ceremony was performed by Dr. Robert Barnett at Calvary Baptist Church of Grayling.

The maid of honor was Levon Nauta of Rockford, friend of the bride, and the bestman was Andrew Perrin of Grayling, friend of the groom. Bridesmaids were: Sandra Edwards of Madison Heights, cousin of the bride, Christa Northrop of Kalamazoo, sister of the groom, and Beth Boyd of Commerce Township, cousin of the bride. The groomsmen were: Rich Doe of Grayling, friend

Junior bridesmaid was Megan Miller of Roscommon, cousin of the groom, and the ringbearer and flowergirl were Jordan and Amanda Hathaway of Traverse City, cousins of the groom. Ushers were Scott and Michael Miller of Roscommon, cousins of the groom.

The reception was held at Holiday Inn of Grayling and the couple honeymooned in Maui before returning to Mt. Pleasant where they both attend Central Michigan University. Lisa is a 1994 and Corey is a 1996 graduate of Grayling High School.



Howell-Medler Wedding

MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT — Mr. and Mrs. Clarence B. Medley are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Regina Ann to Matthew Howell, son of Billy Howell and the late Barbara Howell. Matthew and Regina were united in marriage on October 4, 1997 at the Michelson Memorial United Church, Grayling Michigan. The couple now resides in New Baltimore.

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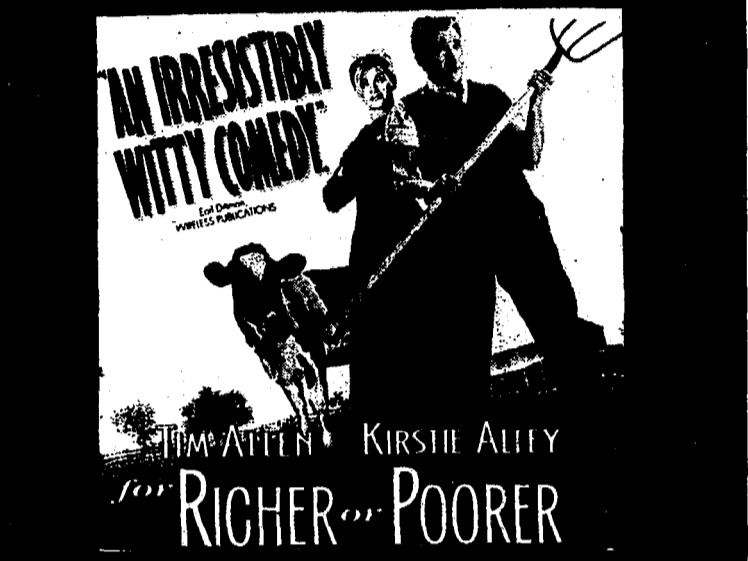
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SENIOR PERSPECTIVE

A monthly service to our Senior Citizens

Pets can be best medicine

Frank Matingley lay in a coma in a hospital, occasionally mumbling the McCulloch says. "For name of his dog, Tipper."

As his life ebbed away, doctors said it would do no harm if his pet said goodbye to his master through a window.

When Tipper saw him at the Southampton hospital, he barked—and Frank, 68, began to come around on pet." his life support machine. Stress is one of the killers. When nurses wheeled him of modern life, but science nearer to see his dog, he tists at the University of Pennsylvania have discovered a new way of lowering to health.

Medical experts are now looking closely at the possibility that pets may be a better tonic than many forms of treatment. Frank made in front of an aquarium and left to watch the fish. Some

Remarkable experiments are convincing doctors that tapes of tropical fish lazily when it comes to sickness, swimming around. As the animals really are man's companies point out, you best friend. Cats, dogs, don't have to feed the fish parakeets, even goldfish, or clean out the tank. have produced significant

improvement in patients' health—in some cases, aid recovery was first tried faster than drug treatments. by 18th-century Quakers,

Results have been so encouraging that one specialist has even launched a rent-a-dog scheme to put people back on their feet. turned back the clock and

London psychiatrist Dr. Michael McCulloch has dogs, seven parakeets and about 15 dogs in his "pet tank of fish worked wonders." They are delivered by assistants before break-

fast to patients' homes, and "We realized how beneficial pets can be," said Dr.

COA to host "Pajama Party" dance

The first dance of the month will be at the Commission on Aging on Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 12:30 p.m. Shake a leg with some snappy tunes and good company.

The second dance will be a special "pajama party." (Don't be surprised if it has to be cancelled—it has been every year in the past because of foul weather!) However, they shall try



SHARE program sign-up

Any age, as well as any income group is eligible. The price is \$15 plus two hours community service for each unit. Each share package is worth \$25 to \$30 store value.

The sign-up date is the

Mary Highcliffe. "They're uncritical, they don't require a lot of care, you can talk to them and they don't get bored. They're a perfect friend."

At Shelton, withdrawn patients became more talkative, and difficult ones socialized more easily. And in one case, a woman, thought for five years to have been deaf, started talking to the goldfish.

Hundreds of patients at the Golden West convalescent hospital in Hawthorne, Calif., have been helped on the road to recovery by a mongrel dog named Duchess.

Administrator Marion Hames saved the stray from

being put to sleep and left to the patient reached down to hospital. Now Duchess pat her," says Hames. "It starts her daily rounds at 7 a.m., greeting patients in responded to anything.

every sick ward in the 40-

room building.

And when a signal light

flashes above a patient's door, the black and tan dog Cali, have been helped on the road to recovery by a Duchessa called daily on a 64-year-old man, paralyzed and unable to speak, and

Administrator Marion

Hames saved the stray from

being put to sleep and

"After a couple of days,

made a home for her at the

hospital. Now Duchess pat her," says Hames. "It

starts her daily rounds at 7

was the first time he had

greeting patients in responded to anything.

every sick ward in the 40-

room building.

Now he's actually saying a few words."

Some developments in

four-legged therapy have progressed to training animals to care for the sick.

For instance, Dr. Mary Willard of Tufts New England Medical Care Hospital has taught capuchin monkeys to nurse patients.

One saucer-eyed monkey has enriched the life of paralysis victim Robert Foster by operating his microwave oven, serving meals, and preparing

drinks of milk from his

refrigerator.

The incredible cauchin

brushes his hair, uses a key

to open doors and can even

take a record from a sleeve

and place it on a turntable.

In Kyusha Veterinary

Hospital, Japan, a chimpanzee helps out as a medical orderly—looking after other animals. He has been

trained to carry patients to

surgery and serve meals.

Doctors may soon be asking—are humans really nec-

essary?



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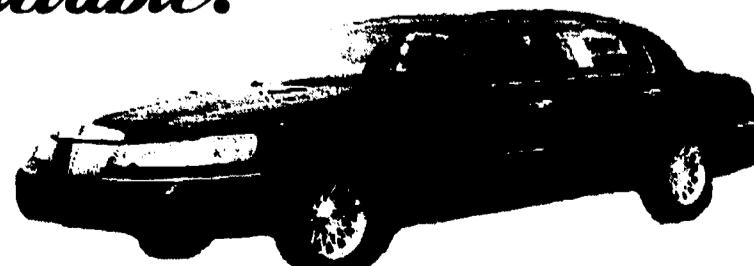
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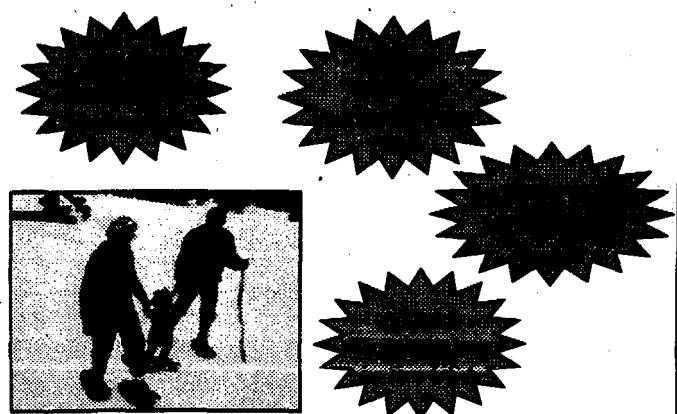


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SALE

Snowmobiles can be fun but deadly

by Jotham Tausig
Capital News Service

LANSING—Snowmobiling is one of Michigan's popular winter sports with about 270,000 registered vehicles, but it can also be deadly.

Michigan leads the nation in snowmobile fatalities. Last winter's 44 deaths broke the previous record of 39 set during the winter of 1974-75.

"Fifty percent of fatal accidents involve alcohol consumption," said Lt. Suzanne Koppelo of the law enforcement division of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). "The majority of fatalities involve males from their 20s to mid-to late 30s."

Typical fatal accidents involve hitting a tree or dock piling on a frozen lake, Koppelo said. But 30 to 40 percent of deaths involve collisions with cars on roads.

Depending on the size of the engine, snowmobiles can go as fast as 100 mph, said Kay Lamson, president of the Grand Rapids-based Michigan Snowmobilers Association. "Normal trail rides you do anywhere between 35 and 55 safely. But there are spots you can ride 70 safely, and where you've got to do 10 to 15."

Speed often plays a big part in fatal collisions, according to the DNR.

But there is more a snowmobiler

can do than just slow down.

Safety courses are required by law for any potential solo rider below the age of 17. Children as young as 12 can ride without taking the course as long as they are under the direct supervision of an adult.

Courses are available in all regions of the state through the DNR, some schools and local snowmobile associations. Riders seeking information should call their local police departments or DNR office.

But safety courses are no substitute for sound judgment.

"The main concern is the drinking," Lamson said. "People get brave when they've had too much to drink — think they're invincible and don't take other people into consideration."

"It's crucial for people operating snowmobiles to drive safely and drive smart," said Herbert Burns, chief of the DNR law enforcement

division. "Drivers should always be aware of potential hazards and use good judgment."

DNR recommends these safety steps:

- Don't drink — It can be fatal and alcohol is involved in nearly half of snowmobile fatalities. Alcohol can also increase the chances of hypothermia (very low body heat).

- Slow Down — Speed is a contributing factor in nearly all fatal accidents. Drive at moderate speeds and at a pace that allows ample reaction time. Don't overdrive your headlight.

- Be Prepared — Bring a first-aid kit, a flashlight, waterproof matches, a knife and a compass.

- Stay Alert — Fatigue can reduce your coordination and judgment.

- Ice Advice — Don't travel on ice if you're uncertain of the thickness. Running water and currents can

weaken the ice. Snow cover can prevent ice from forming. Never travel in single file when crossing bodies of water.

- Dress for Success — Use a full-face helmet, goggles or face shield. Wear water and wind-repellent clothing in layers and don't have loose ends that may catch in the machine.

- Avoid Roads — If you have to cross, stop completely, listen and look for traffic, and use hand signals. Stay away from all cars, moving or parked.

- Watch the Weather — Rapid weather changes can produce dangerous conditions.

- Bring a buddy — Never travel alone. Most accidents result in injuries. The most dangerous situations can occur if an injured person is alone. If you have to travel alone tell someone of your plans and expected return time.

Defensive winter driving keeps cars from crashing

Sightseeing is a popular pastime when you're on vacation—but in the dead of winter, when many travelers are heading to festivals, events or warm-weather retreats, it pays to keep your eyes on the road.

In fact, says AAA Michigan, the leading cause of traffic crashes on ice-slick, snow-clogged roads is following the car in front too closely.

In addition to the use of safe-driving techniques, AAA Michigan spokesman Jerry Basch recommends increasing your following distance on slippery roads from the good-road gap of three seconds to six seconds.

A good way to measure the six-second time gap is to select a distinct road marking or sign, and then begin counting off the seconds when the car ahead passes that spot.

"You're tailgating if you get to that spot before counting to six," Basch said. "And that is too close for safety on slippery roads."

According to Basch, stopping dis-

tances on melting ice and snow at the 32-degree freezing point are twice as great as at zero temperatures.

Especially dangerous are shaded areas and bridges, overpasses and intersections—areas where ice is likely to form first or become slippery due to heavy traffic. AAA Michigan offers the following tips to help motorists steer clear of winter driving trouble:

- Improve visibility by clearing all snow and ice from the entire car—hood, roof, trunk, turn signals, lights, windows, mirrors, even fender wells. Also, driving with headlights on low-beam provides better road illumination in snow and fog than using high-beams.
- Remember, posted speed limits are set for ideal road and weather conditions.
- Avoid sudden starts, stops and turns. Accelerate carefully so car wheels don't spin.
- Don't brake hard. The best tech-

nique for braking on ice or snow is "threshold" or "squeeze" braking. This is done by applying the brakes firmly to a point just short of lock-up, and then easing off the brake pedal slightly. Applying steady pressure is better than pumping the brakes. If your vehicle has anti-lock brakes, continuous firm pressure is recommended. Pumping will deactivate ABS.

- In a skid, ease off the accelerator and don't lock up the brakes. Carefully steer in the direction you want to go and straighten the wheel as soon as the car begins to go in the desired direction.

- Anticipate potential danger such as ice on bridges, snow-covered lane markings, stalled cars and poor visibility. Adjust speed, increase distance between other cars or change lanes to avoid trouble. Watch for other drivers who may be unprepared for changing road conditions.

John B. Lennon

John B. Lennon, 82, of Grayling, passed away Jan. 3, 1998 at St. Anthony's Hospital, St. Petersburg, Fla.

He was born in Barlow, N.D. to Charles and Ruby (Elliott) Lennon on Nov. 10, 1915.

Mr. Lennon moved to Grayling three and one half years ago from St. Petersburg, Fla. He also resided in Grayling from 1964 to 1979 with his previous home in Hurley, Wis. He was a retired supervisor of maintenance from Camp La Victore and Camp Shawano. He was a member of the St. Mary's Parish Church, Grayling.

He is survived by three sons and seven daughters: Janice (Don) Larson of St. Petersburg, Fla., Karen (Willard) Lawrence of Bay City, Charles (Margaret) Lennon of Freeland, Sherry (Milt) Olds of Belleville, Denise Lennon of St. Petersburg, Fla., Bruce (Elizabeth) Lennon, Grayling, Lori (Kerry) Palmer of Gaylord, Debra (Al) Walraven of Bay City, Gerard Lennon of St. Petersburg, Fla., and Nanette (Richard) Ferrigan of Grayling; 24 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and sister, Dorothy Wamsley of Livonia.

Mr. Lennon was preceded in death by his parents, wife, Irene B. Lennon (Oct. 25, 1996) and his aunt, Anna Lennon.

A funeral service was held Jan. 7, 1998 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Grayling with Reverend Regis Burzynski officiating. Burial at Elmwood Cemetery, Grayling.

The family suggests memorials be directed to Amicare Home Health Care or St. Mary's Catholic Church.

The wide eyes filled with awe.
The stories that we'd hear,

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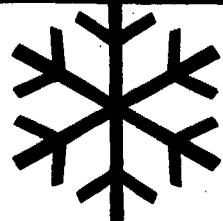
The knowledge deep within our hearts,

You're smiling up above

For: Bill Geake on the 11th anniversary of his death.

From: His Family

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NOTES NORTHERN

INFORMATION
Feature

From the pages of *The Avalanche*

1997 Year in Review in Grayling

January

* Dr. David Nolan, health and medical officer of the District Health Department, explained that a portion of the flu vaccine, administered to people in Crawford and surrounding counties, was "not as potent as influenza vaccines are supposed to be."

* During the Jan. 2 organizational meeting, Lynette Corlew took her seat as one of the six members of the Crawford County Board of Commissioners.

* The Kids Count of Michigan report revealed some strengths and many weaknesses for Crawford County. The county placed in the bottom half of the state in the majority of the report's indicators.

* A new Michigan license plate, featuring a sunrise over the Straits of Mackinac with the Mackinaw Bridge in the foreground, became available in early January. It was the winning design of the Great State Plate Challenge in 1996 by entrant Richard Watkins of Bay City. The plate is aptly named "The Great Lakes Splendor" license plate.

* The Grayling Vikings wrestling team took home a trophy for second place at the Gladwin Tournament on Jan. 4.

* The Grayling Vikings volleyball team lost its first game to the Boyne City Ramblers, but came back strong, taking the next three games to a match victory on Jan. 6.

* On Jan 11, family, friends and Camp Grayling members gathered for an emotional send-off of 24 National Guard soldiers, members of the 1439th Engineer Detachment, who were scheduled for deployment to Europe on a peace-keeping mission of 153 days.

* It was reported in the Jan. 16 edition of *The Avalanche* that a local chapter of the Christian men's group, Promise Keepers, was forming, with men representing most area churches.

* Following an environmental study



FOND FAREWELL -- Off to Europe went 24 National Guard members on peacetime duty, lasting 153 days.

* 1996-97 MEAP test results showed significant improvement over the 1995-96 fourth grade reading and math results. But, in grade seven, scores fell significantly.

* Grayling Township drafted a possible ordinance on adult entertainment in response to an incident in a neighboring township, where an adult book store came in and the township had no ordinances to control this type of business.

* Robin Cox of Frederic Township Ambulance and Rita Gierl of Northflight EMS were named EMTs of the Year for 1996.

* Don and Rae Ann Schanz were presented with the Citizens of the Year Award from the Grayling RI.

area men were arrested in the case and another was expected to be arrested.

* The Lovells Anti Crime Association was formed after 62 concerned property owners met with Crawford County officials to air complaints about the "lack of patrolling done in the Lovells area" and the intense use of the area by

by state and local officials, Lake Margrethe was found to be in pristine condition.

* The "Blizzard of 1997" passed

through the area on Jan. 16, dropping anywhere from a foot to 16 inches of snow. Visibility dropped to less than one-quarter of a mile, winds gusted over 30 m.p.h., and temperatures dropped below zero. A portion of I-75 in Crawford County was closed four to five hours due to conditions and to allow emergency personnel to clean up the aftermath of numerous accidents

Regional Chamber of Commerce during its annual meeting. The event included a \$10,000 raffle drawing. Winner was a group called "Going for Broke," made up of seven local residents, who split the cost of the \$100 ticket and, then split the grand prize of \$10,000.

* The Grayling High School Lady Vikings ski team won both the slalom and giant slalom events in a five-team competition at Boyne Mountain on Jan. 21. The boys team won the slalom race.

* The new AuSable Primary School was dedicated to the Grayling community. Principal Barb Mick, said, "This is like a dream come true. The new school is bright with primary colors, lots of light and lots of room. The students enjoy a modern media center, music room and a bathroom in every classroom.

* Evelyn Klein, a local retired teacher, donated property to the AuSable Primary School that raised \$20,000.

The money was used to create a tile mosaic of the school's mascot and motto in the center of the lobby floor. The school's children chose a Dalmatian for their mascot.

* From Jan 20-26, areas in Crawford County experienced 11 breaking and entering crimes, mostly in Lovells Township in homes on Dam Four Rd. Crawford County Undersheriff Kirk Wakefield said, "We believe all (11) are connected."

* Grayling Regional Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Jerry Meyer, announced his resignation after two years of service to take a similar position in East Greenwich, RI.

Lovely tried to assure the group that the department will do all it can to handle the problems.

* Gov. John Engler signed a new law extending the demonstration snowmobile trail between Gaylord and Frederic.

* For the first time in Grayling High School history, five consecutive wrestlers earned first place in a tournament.

At the White Whittemore-Prescott Tournament held on Feb. 1, Eddie Davis, Dave Shepherd, Ben Malonen, Jason Hall, and Josh Taylor set the new school record.

* Local third grader, Mark Wejrowski, won a "Skate with the Red Wings" contest in Mount Pleasant. He and a friend were instructed by Red Wing coach Mike Krushelnyski in the fine art of hock-

ey at the Joe Louis Arena on Feb. 2. They also enjoyed pizza, a tour of the arena, and free tickets to see the Red Wings beat the Dallas Stars in an overtime thriller.

* Travis Lamotte and Caron Lamotte won the Grayling Youth Bowling Family Twosome event with 1,286 total points.

* Sal (Truetner) Hubel donated \$10,000 to the United Way Fund.

* The Crawford County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution to allow County Prosecutor John Huss to keep his private law practice, but cut his annual salary from \$50,000 to \$42,000.

* A site development plan for the Beal Plantation was discussed by a group of interested tree-lovers. The trees in the historical site were planted on May 23, 1888 and may be the only site in the country where reforestation has been so well documented and preserved.

* Hanson Hills hosted the Winter Wolf Festival Feb. 8-9. Festival-goers enjoyed hours of winter sports competitions, a chili cook-off, an obstacle course, the Grayling High School ski team torch parade and much more.

* Twenty-five Grayling Viking Band members received a one rating, 14 received a two rating and one received a three rating at the Band and Orchestra Solo and Ensemble contest at Kalkaska High

School. A rating of one is the highest a musician can earn.

* Plans continue for a private golf and country club named "Forest Dunes" in South Branch Township. The first of two 18-hole golf courses could open in 1998 and the second course in 1999.

* Grayling Police Chief Peter Stephan announced his intention to become a republican candidate for the Michigan House seat being vacated by Rep. Allen Lowe (R-Grayling) because of term limitations.

* At the Grayling Township Board meeting, members showed a "not in my backyard" attitude, and approved an ordinance regulating adult entertainment businesses.

* High School infrastructure and personnel needs were discussed at the Crawford AuSable Schools Board of Education meeting. Most critical needs mentioned were a new heating and ventilation system, a new roof, and additional classroom space.

* The Grayling High School boys ski team captured first place overall at the Regionals in Manistee and were headed to the state competition at Nub's Nob near Harbor Springs on Feb. 24 where they finished as a top five team in the State B-C-D Division.

* Three thousand signatures in favor of a race track in Crawford

County were collected and a large number of people showed up for the Feb. 18 Crawford County Board of Commissioners meeting. Phil Parnelee, lead racetrack promoter, said he was surprised by the number of people interested and that Lake County had also shown interest in the project.

* At the Feb. 19 "Business After Hours," the Chamber of Commerce bid farewell to executive director Jerry Meyer and his wife, Nancy Meyer. Ron Joyce was hired as interim director until a permanent replacement could be found.

* Grayling City Council members approved a motion at the Feb. 24 council meeting to adopt a new rate structure to provide more adequate funding for the city's water/sewer enterprise fund. Rates will increase, per 1,000 gallons, from 83 cents to 88 cents.

* The Pennies for Playgrounds program raised \$1,500 for new equipment at the Grayling Elementary School and AuSable Primary School. The Grayling Eagles helped out with a donation of \$200.

* Ann Hughes of Grayling was honored as Wellington Farm Park "Volunteer of the Year."

* The eighth grade Green team finished the basketball season successfully with a 9-1 record. The seventh grade Green team was also a winner with a 6-3 record.

March

* The Christian Youth Activity Center opened its doors on March 1. The center is located in the former Fred Bear Museum at Hanson Hills.

* Randy Richardson and Tom Ritter head a committee to find out if a county sportsplex, similar to those in Otsego and Kalkaska counties, would be supported in Crawford County.

* Rep. Allen Lowe (R-Grayling) introduced a bill to offer low-interest loans to hotels and restaurants, if a mild winter or rainy summer made traveling unattractive to tourists. Area businesses showed support for the legislation.

* Lovells Township Treasurer Dolores Haberland resigned effective March 31. Ann Duby, a former township trustee, was appointed to take over the position beginning April 1.

* The Grayling Lady Viking volleyball team finished their season with a 48-37 record.

* Grayling City Manager Jerry Morford announced that Grayling fire chief Russell Strohpaul, Jr. had resigned, Dean Goss would become chief, and Duane Brooks would fill Goss' assistant chief position effective April 1.

* Local third grader, Mark Wejrowski, won a "Skate with the Red Wings" contest in Mount Pleasant. He and a friend were instructed by Red Wing coach Mike Krushelnyski in the fine art of hock-

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Grayling area due to usage of fax machines, computer modems and new businesses. New telephone lines are being issued "344" prefix telephone numbers.

* Nova Anderson was elected director by the Commission on Aging Board.

* On March 21, Crawford County sheriff's officers broke up a "wild party" and cited 29 residents in the process. Alcohol and marijuana were confiscated.

* Jordan Stancil was named a Fulbright Fellow, allowing him to pursue graduate studies at the University of Vienna in Austria for 1997-98.

* Frank Morris won first place in the Veterans Creative Arts Competition at the VA Medical Center in Battle Creek. Morris hand-crafted a hat and cane for the competition and will move on to national competition in the summer.

* The sportsplex steering committee unveiled a floor plan for the proposed project on a two acre parcel of the Crawford County Fairgrounds.

* "Our Town" was presented by the Grayling High School Players.

* Marianne Vollmer, a GHS freshman, became the first ever

Michigan High School Girls Wrestling State Champion at competition held in Ann Arbor.

* Installation of new

maximum speed limit signs was on time. Speed limits on most Michigan freeways rose from 65 to 70 mph

Continued on 2B

Grayling Promotional Association fund raising event.

* Custom Forest Products completed a \$2 million expansion, including a warehouse and UV machine, creating 25 new jobs and possibly more in the future.

* The City of Grayling was found by the District Court to be responsible for the \$560 annual maintenance costs of the railway signs at the west end of Michigan Ave.

* GTE announced a new telephone prefix had been added for the

More next week
The Year in Review in Grayling was compiled by Special Writer Cheryll A. Ruley. The final six months of local events will be reviewed next week.

February

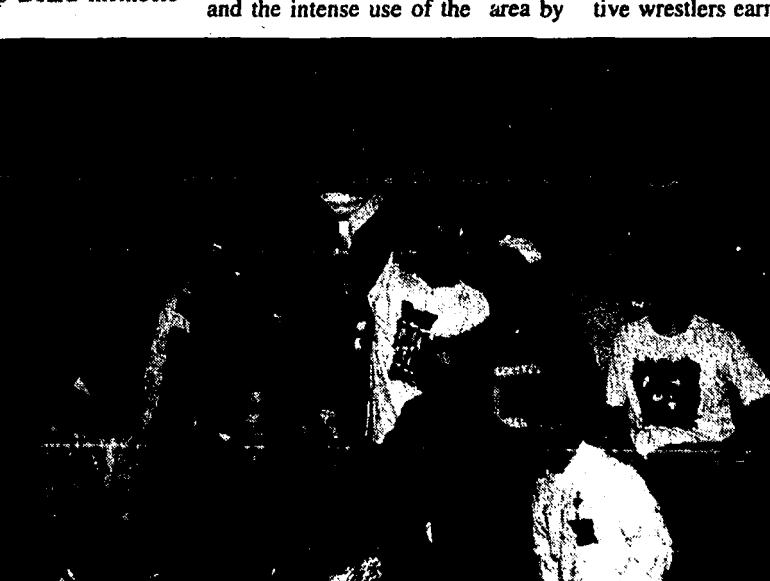
* The idea of a car racing facility for Crawford County seemed to be a bad one after a mostly adverse response from the local citizenry. Then some pro-racing minded citizens came forward, causing county officials to take another look. Frederic Township Board members supported the idea of their area being the chosen site for the facility.

* Melissa Ostwald was announced the winner of the 1997 Grayling Junior Miss Scholarship Program on Feb. 1.

* Stolen property, valued up to \$100,000 was recovered from two homes in Lansing, in connection with a string of breakings and enterings in Crawford County, most occurring in Lovells Township. Two Lansing

CHAMPS -- Grayling High School wrestling team won the District Championship.

thousands of snowmobilers. Crawford County Sheriff David Krushelnyski in the fine art of hock-



GRADUATING GRANDMAS -- The Crawford AuSable Adult and Community Education program granted diplomas, including three to these senior citizens.

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**REMEMBER
LAST WINTER!**

WATCH

From the pages of *The Avalanche*

1997 Year in Review in Grayling

April

• Frederic Elementary School teacher Nancy Beaufort announces her retirement after 30 years of service.

• Michigan Department of Transportation MDOT unveiled projects for 1997 which include improvements to M-22 and the location of a basing site on M-22 west of Grayling.

• South Branch Township officials and project partners estimated the environmental impact of the 150-acre Forest Dunes golf and country club project.

• The roadside task force and east chamber worked together gathering details for the proposed

racetrack known as The Edges project.

• Three students in the Crawford AuSable Schools were essay contest winners in a United Dairy Industry of Michigan competition. Jamie Gregorich, Stephanie Wakely, and Jessica Demontre were the winners.

• Teenagers faced new driver's license requirements as of April 1. The new law requires 30 hours of driving with a designated adult driver over the age of 16, and includes 10 hours of night driving. The mandatory road test was eliminated and a curfew was added for drivers under the age of 17.

• The Blue-Bridge corner was visible in the naked eye in northern Michigan skies during the entire month of April and into May. The comet's tail measures over 10 million miles long.

• On April 5, after a week of spring-like temperatures the region was hit by a windstorm and snow, bringing winter back to the area. Wind gusts up to 60 mph blew down trees and power lines, leaving about 1,000 Consumers Power customers in Crawford and Roscommon counties in the dark for a day or so.

• The AuSable Trail Guid

and is 1997 Trail Show at the Holiday Inn of Grayling with more than 30 guided trips in May.

• Fairs for Humanity received five applications as of April 1 from families interested in becoming the first Crawford County Fairsome homeowners.

• Frederic Elementary School received full accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools NCA and was admitted to membership during NCA's annual meeting in Chicago.

• The Grayling High School Athletic Department added soccer to its schedule and the season got underway April 18.

• At Beaverton, the Grayling Middle School Forensics team brought home all nine first place trophies in a competition against Farview and Beaverton. The team won 21 of the possible 27 trophies at the meet.

• The Grayling Recreation Authority voted to purchase a used cross-country groomer and snowmobile groomer for Hanson Hills at a cost of \$54,000. New equipment of the same type would cost about \$100,000.

• Dr. Raigh S. Steele, M.D. received one of the Michigan State



CENTER OPENED - The Christian Youth Activities Center, located at Hanson Hills, opened during 1997.

Medical Society Community Service Awards for giving back to the community of Grayling by way of free school sports physicals, involvement in Ensign, his church, the Milltown Festival and other community-related activities.

• Julian St. German was the

first place trophy and overall high score for her lyrical dance performance at the preliminary pageant of "I Love to Dance" at the Novi Hilton. Jill was selected as "The Sweetheart" to represent Michigan at the International Championships in Lake Tahoe in July.

appeal was filed by Robert and Monica Fenton. The Fentons live next to the proposed site and stated that the animal shelter would adversely affect their personal welfare.

• The Crawford AuSable Board of Education appointed Gary Pettyjohn to fill the seat left vacant when his wife, Irene, died.

• Three senior citizens earned high school diplomas through the Crawford AuSable Schools Adult and Community Education Program: Alveria Ashbrook 77, Mary Cariveau 78, and Hazel Nottingham 74.

Look for more Year in Review to appear next week in The Avalanche.
(Compiled by Cheryll A. Rulley)

and his proposed Edges Racetrack when the DNR refused a state land deal in Lake County.

• Preliminary site for the Forest Dunes development in South Branch Township was approved by the township's board of trustees. Plans for the site include \$250,000 homes in a country club setting.

• Crawford County Habitat for Humanity broke ground at lot 96 in AuSable Woods #2 after the land was donated by James and Janet Montgomery of Detroit. Local contractors donated labor and equipment to clear some trees and stumps in preparation for the new home's foundation.

• After a decision by the Grayling Township Planning Commission to allow a conditional use permit for the new animal shelter on North Down River Road, an

appeal was filed by Robert and Monica Fenton. The Fentons live next to the proposed site and stated that the animal shelter would adversely affect their personal welfare.

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including rides in a UH-1H "Huey" helicopter, at the Camp Grayling Civic Leader Tour.

• Milltown Follies 1997, the annual variety show, presented by local seniors, drew audiences of all ages.

• About 100 young people turned out for the Christian Youth Activity Center's "lock-in," where the favorite activity for the night was Bouncy Boxing.

• Local residents and community leaders took part in many activities.



DAMAGING FIRE -- The Gasser home in Grayling Township was destroyed by fire in May.

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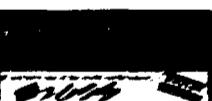
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Church and the city of Grayling when it was agreed that the church addition could be built within the 50-foot requirement in the city zoning ordinance.

• Karl Schreiner and Jim Tobin defeated incumbent Rodney Lobsinger and Michael Johnson in the Crawford AuSable Schools Board of Education election.

• Seven juveniles ages 12-17, six from Grayling, vandalized three residences off McIntyre Landing, causing damage between \$8,000 and \$10,000.

• Pat Merrill was chosen to fill the new position of Crawford County Environmental Official, with his primary duty being landfill "watchdog."

• In memory of Bob Hale, who spent countless hours instructing Little League and other area baseball players, three new batting cages for use by area ball players will be built and dedicated in his name.

• The Grayling Township Board of Trustees decided to review possible deed restrictions before making a decision on the appeal request by the Fentons regarding the proposed site for the new animal shelter.

• The AuSable River became the new home for two pairs of trumpeter swans in an effort to reintroduce the species in Michigan.

• A record number of teams had entered the AuSable River Canoe

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Vikings edge Bucks in close game

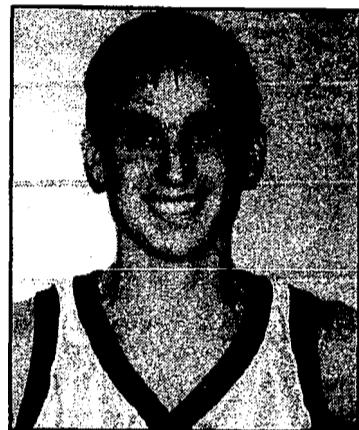
by Dave Golnick
Student Writer

The Grayling Vikings Varsity boys' basketball team defeated the Roscommon Bucks 63-58 on Jan. 3.

The game started out fast, and both teams offenses got to work quickly. Roscommon used the full court press to their advantage and caused many Grayling turnovers deep in Viking territory.

Perhaps the turning point of the game was when Viking team captain Nate Hinkle dunked the ball on the Roscommon defense. His actions sparked great offensive effort by the Vikings as they held on to a 19-17 advantage going into the second quarter.

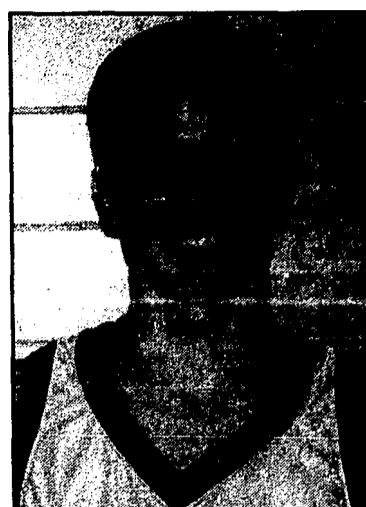
In the second quarter there were many offensive breaks and constant back-and-forth action. The Roscommon defense tightened up, blocking many of the Grayling shots, but the Viking offense was too hot for the Bucks to handle. The Vikings started to pull away at the end of the half with a great defensive effort of their own, but the Bucks still remained in striking distance, 34-29.



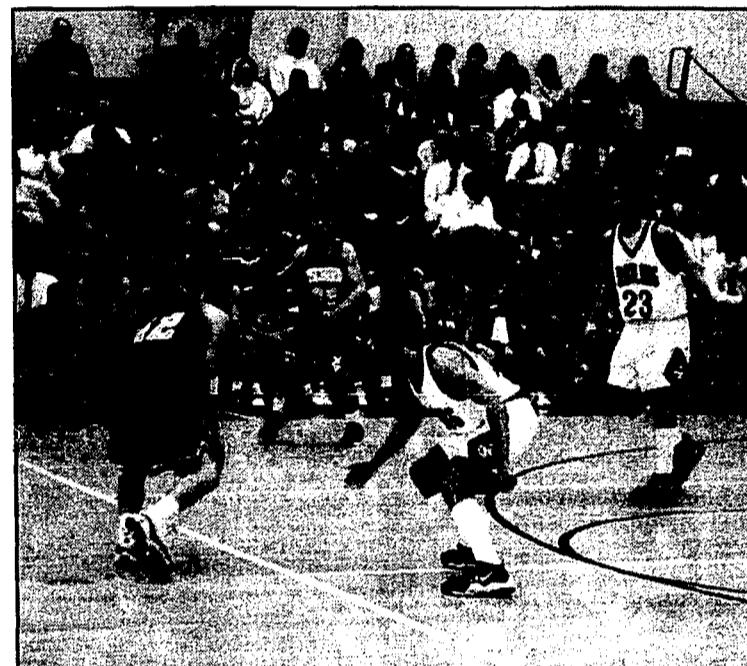
SHARP SHOOTER -- Nate Hinkle shot out the lights from three-point range against Roscommon, hitting five three-pointers in his game leading 23-points total.

paced, but many shots fired missed their mark, making for a low scoring Tuesday's game versus Piconning quarter. A continued Viking defensive effort halted the Roscommon attack, Oscoda Owls at Oscoda.

The third quarter remained close, with more back-and-forth drives by the teams. The third quarter was fast-



HERE'S A TIP -- Nate Hinkle (23) wins the tip cleanly to Brad Ritter (50) in a recent varsity game against Roscommon.



DEFENDERS -- Travis Parkinson (foreground) defends the lane against the Roscommon ball handler as Nate Hinkle (23) guards the passing lane.

Viking Freshmen ride crest of three-game win string

The Grayling High School Ninth Grade basketball team is off and running at a high pace in the 1997-98 season.

Coach Doug Simons' freshman squad has run up three straight wins, all by comfortable margins.

The season's fourth game, scheduled Jan. 5 against Oscoda, was canceled because of hazardous driving conditions.

Next action for the Viking Frosh is slated for Thursday (Jan. 8) at Pinconning.

Opening at home against Ogemaw Heights on Dec. 15, Grayling came out at the beginning of game focused, and executed its game play perfectly, which led to an eventual 71-55 Viking win.

But it was not easy all the way. Once Ogemaw was down by 10 points, the press was applied.

"In my opinion, this was good for our team," said Coach Simons. "It forced us to execute our press break properly. In the second half, our team responded to the full court pressure, and made good decisions."

Viking scoring was led by Kyle Langseth with 20, Ryan Mahaffy and Levi Burkett with 11 each, and Marcus Bobenmeyer 12 and Jory Harland 10.

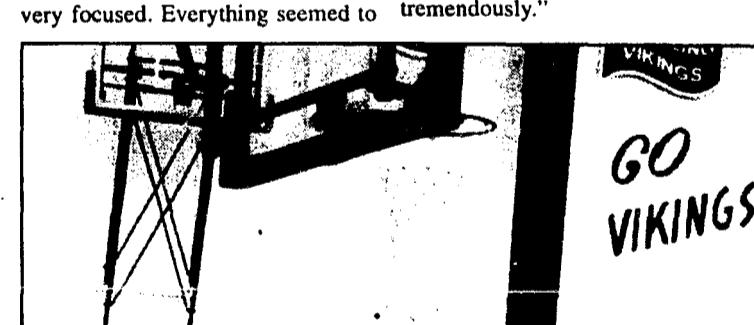
Everyone on the team had the opportunity to score. Levi Burkett led the parade with 21 points, Kyle Langseth had 18, Ryan Mahaffy 16, Marcus Bobenmeyer 12 and Jory Harland 10.

"Our team came out for this game very focused. Everything seemed to click, both offensively and defensively," Simons said.

"Roscommon came out a little slow, and our team capitalized on this from the beginning of the game."

Coach Simons credited a Christmas break trip to the Central Michigan University campus for sharpening his team.

At CMU, he said, "we scrimmaged some very good junior varsity teams. I feel that this helped us tremendously."



LAYUP TIME -- Ryan Mahaffy goes in for a layup as the Grayling ninth grade team trounced Roscommon.



SURROUNDED -- Viking Joel Cummings (under the basket) is surrounded by Bucks, but fights for his shot, while Barry McClanahan (far right) angles for the rebound in the freshman game against Roscommon.

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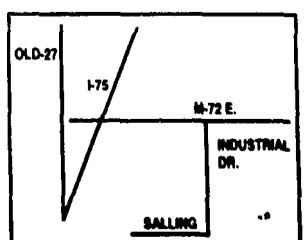
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M-55 • Houghton Lake

Food on premises

FREE ADMISSION - NO PETS ALLOWED
INFORMATION (517) 366-7206 • (517) 422-3828

Kirtland
CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Place to be on Saturday Nights!

The Kingston Trio
40th Anniversary Reunion tour
Sponsored by St. Helen Power Sports & MCACA
Saturday, January 24 • 8 pm

The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra
A Valentine's Day Special Event
Sponsored by Sharp's Corner IGA - Higgins Lake & MCACA
Saturday, February 14 • 8 pm

The Four Freshmen
Sponsored by CellularOne, Northern Security Systems,
Land N' Lakes Realty & MCACA
Saturday, March 7 • 8 pm
Kirtland Ticket Office 517-275-6777

Hotel accommodations for all KCPA artists provided by
Quality Inn - West Branch. David Clouse - Manager.
For reservations call 1-800-228-5151
News Channel 7&4 Exclusive Television Sponsor

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Your pharmacist can
help you stop smoking.

Valu-Rite
Healthy
Values

If you've made a New Year's resolution to quit smoking, congratulations! There is probably no gift that would be more appreciated by those who love you than for you to succeed in that resolution, and it is probably the best thing you can do for your future health.

Quitting smoking has never been easy, but it has gotten easier than it used to be, thanks to Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT). There are three different methods of administering NRT: skin patches, chewing gum and nasal spray. Only the nasal spray requires a prescription.

Ask Your Pharmacist to Help You

In order to determine which is best for you, talk to your pharmacist. Make sure he or she knows about any other medications you may be taking because nicotine supplementation can change the way other drugs work. Also, be sure to mention any medical conditions you have, especially diabetes, heart or blood vessel disease, overactive thyroid, stomach ulcer.

How Nicotine Replacement Therapy Works

Nicotine is the ingredient in cigarettes that causes smokers to be physically addicted. Nicotine replacement therapies provide a low dose of nicotine (when used as directed) and are the only FDA approved smoking cessation aids that let you wean yourself from nicotine. Because

these products do not contain the tars, ammonia, formaldehyde, arsenic, mace and carbon monoxide found in cigarette smoke, they do not have the same health risks as using tobacco.

Part of a Program

Research has shown that NRT is most effective when used as part of a multi-pronged support program geared to the needs of the individual smoker. In other words, the more things you have going for you, the more likely you are to succeed. For instance, this might be a good time to improve your diet, since most people gain some weight when they quit smoking. Likewise, exercise has been shown to help, especially for those who haven't followed a regular workout schedule.

Additional help is available through the Committed Quitters Program™, sponsored by SmithKline Beecham, the makers of Nicorette® gum and the Nicoderm CQ® patch. After purchasing either product, you'll call an 800 number found in the package to be enrolled FREE in the program. This personalized, custom-tailored plan helps you break your psychological addiction to smoking while the gum or patch fights the physical addiction. Whatever method you decide to try in your effort to stop smoking, don't forget to consult your doctor about any changes to your health-care routine.

**GRAYLING
PHARMACY**



Jeff Emmons
Pharmacist

208 Michigan Ave. • 548-6058

Viking Wrestlers do well in Gladwin

Grayling High School wrestlers did very well in an eight-team invitational tournament at Gladwin Saturday (Jan. 3).

Ben Malonen of Grayling was honored as the Most Valuable Wrestler of the tournament, being the choice of a vote by coaches from all the teams participating.

Malonen also won the 140 pound championship when he defeated two wrestlers who had been undefeated.

Other Viking grapplers also came home with honors.

Placing second in their divisions were Matt Evan at 103 pounds, and Josh Niederer at 119 pounds.

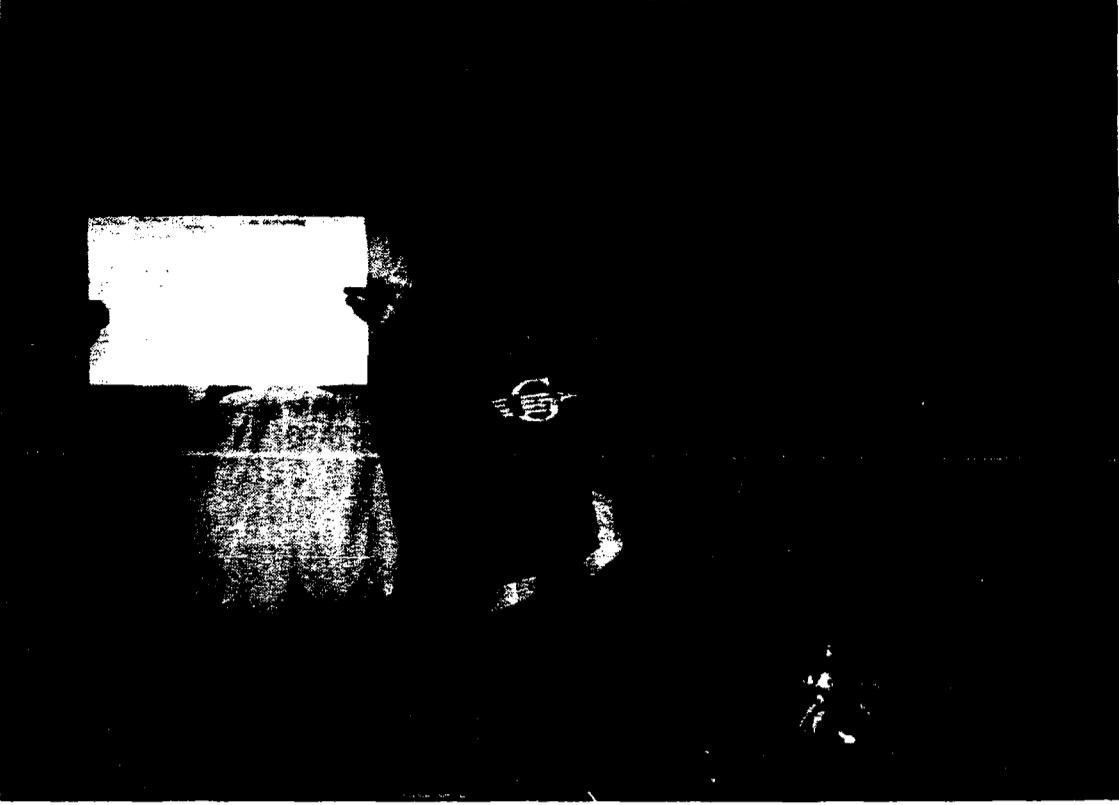
Placing third in the 130 pound division was Larry Baker.

Four place winners were Marker Weaver at 145 pounds, Nate Niederer at 160 pounds, and Chris Peters at 171 pounds.

The eight schools at the Gladwin meet, including Grayling and the host team, were Pine River, St. Louis, Houghton Lake, Sanford-Meridian, Montebello and Saginaw Buena Vista.

Next action for the Viking grapplers will be Thursday, Jan. 8, at home entertaining Standish-Sterling and Saginaw Valley Lutheran.

Matches begin at 6 p.m.



TOPS AT 140 — Ben Malonen (left) won the 140 pound class at the Gladwin Invitational by defeating Ross Allen of Gladwin and Mike Steinman of Pine River, who had been undefeated until they ran up against the Viking wrestler.



SECOND PLACE — Josh Niederer won second place honors in the 199 pound class at Gladwin.

**We Care!**

The Meadows of Grayling

- **OFFERING:**
7 day a week admissions
- **PROVIDING:**
PT, OT, ST, IV, Respiratory therapy
- **COMMITMENT:**
Quality care provided by dedicated, caring staff of health professionals
- **ACCEPTING:**
Medicare, Medicaid, VA, Hospice & Private Care Patients



331 Meadows Drive
Grayling, MI 49738
517-348-2801



RING ACTION — Nathan Niederer of Grayling is atop Brian Candy of St. Louis in 160-pound action at the Gladwin invitational. Nathan finished fourth in his weight class.



HONORED — Most Valuable Wrestler, by vote of the eight coaches at the Gladwin Invitational Meet, was Grayling's Ben Malonen, shown accepting the award from host Coach Sam Wilson.

JV Boys' Basketball conquers Roscommon

by Dave Golnick
Student Writer

The Grayling Vikings Junior Varsity boys' basketball team defeated the Roscommon Bucks Jan. 3 by a score of 63-48.

Grayling took an early lead in the first quarter by capitalizing on Roscommon mistakes and by playing solid defense. The Vikings barely held on to the lead as the first

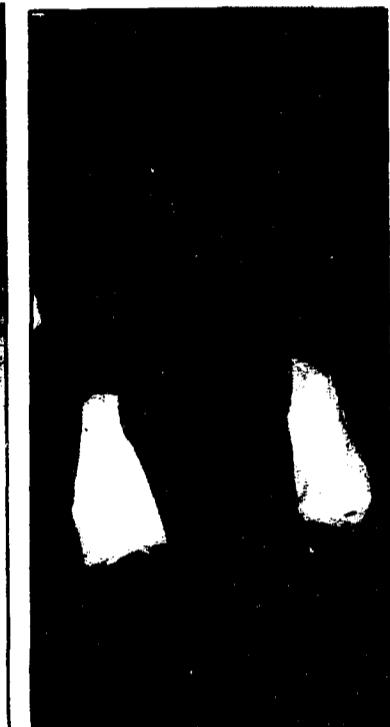
Grizzlies at home

The Gaylord Grizzlies Junior A hockey team will be at home Saturday (Jan. 10) against the Chicago Freeze. Face off is 7:30 p.m. Gaylord lost last week's game at Danville, Ill., 3-2.

quarter ran out, however, because the Roscommon press put a considerable amount of pressure on the Grayling ball handlers.

The second quarter featured tight defense by both teams, leading to a close score for the rest of the half. The Vikings finally broke the Bucks' press, forcing Roscommon to stop utilizing it. The score was 30-28 going into half-time with Grayling in the lead.

In the third quarter the Vikings started to pull away, forcing the Bucks to turn the ball over to the Grayling defenders on many occasions. Grayling easily converted



EVAN PLACES — Matt Evan won second place honors at Gladwin in the 103 pound class.

Mens' Basketball League

Game #1 Geo Signs/Sawmill 63 — Lange Vending 50.

T. Doremire-16, M. Doremire-14, Trudgeon-13, Dittenber-10, Burrell-5, Knox-5/Logendike-16, Cummings-12, Houghton-8, Geers-8, R. Harland-2, Ritter-2, Hannam-2.

Game #2 Spikes 63 — Holiday Inn 46.

Church-25, Patterson-15, Kucharek-10, Jason Thompson-7; Jon Thompson-4, Potter-2 / Hamlin-15, Bonamie-15, Habib-8, Weiler-4, Swope-4.

Game #3 Weyerhaeuser 71 — Bayham Forest Products 39.

Grant-18, Hull-11, Dandy-9, Ruddy-8, Derenzy-7, Ramsey-7, Trenary-5, Leng-3, McGregor-2, Bickford-1 / Hurd-12, Youngblood-10, Neil-6, Bayham-4, Perrin-3, Henning-2, Persing-2.

Standings after Week #1

Geo Signs/Sawmill	1 0
Spikes	1 0
Weyerhaeuser	1 0
Lange Vending	0 1
Holiday Inn	0 1
Bayham Forest Products	0 1

The next scheduled games will be played on Jan. 8 beginning at 7 p.m. Game 1 Geo Signs/Sawmill vs. Spikes.

Grant-18, Hull-11, Dandy-9, Ruddy-8, Derenzy-7, Ramsey-7, Trenary-5, Leng-3, McGregor-2, Bickford-1 / Hurd-12, Youngblood-10, Neil-6, Bayham-4, Perrin-3, Henning-2, Persing-2.

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The Junior Vikings' next game after Tuesday's contest against Pinconning will be Friday, Jan. 9, against the Oscoda Owls at Oscoda. Game time is 6:15 p.m.

FEATURES

HOROSCOPES

For The Week Of January 11-17

ARIES

March 21-April 20

At last! What may have appeared to be an overwhelming workload should soon dwindle to a trickle. Don't get complacent, though—another pile may be looming over you. Use this brief slowdown as an opportunity to recharge your motivational batteries.

TAURUS

April 21-May 21

Watch your expenses this week. Make sure you double-check your calendar to be sure you are not missing something. You might not be able to make the event, but it will be important to know you've missed it before someone has to point it out to you.

GEMINI

May 22-June 21

A problem you've dealt with before is likely to resurface. Be prepared to stand back and look at it from a new angle. It's possible the person you thought was responsible for this problem is not. Get the facts before you pass judgment.

CANCER

June 22-July 22

There is a good chance that you'll be offered a new opportunity this week. It may look good on the surface, which will arouse your suspicions, but it really is an opportunity worth looking into. Your intuition should be your final guide.

LEO

July 23-August 23

You need to back off a project you've been to anxious to complete. If you continue to push it to conclusion, it isn't going to meet your expectations. Take a little more time and do it right the first time. You'll find the holdup in the details.

VIRGO

August 24-September 22

This is a good week for romance. Don't forget to set aside a little time for fun and games. You may find an answer to a serious problem while taking it easy and letting your mind wander to other areas.

For Entertainment Purposes Only

LIBRA

September 23-October 23

Domestic issues are going to come to a head this week. Make a little time to be there for someone you love. An emotional investment is not only in order, but necessary if you're going to be happy. Strive to accomplish a short-term goal merely for your personal satisfaction.

SCORPIO

October 24-November 22

Don't even try to cover up any major mistakes you make this week. If you do, it will come back to haunt you with disastrous results. Think especially hard before you speak—someone you aren't aware of may be listening.

SAGITTARIUS

November 23-December 21

Decisions may be hard to make this week, but don't procrastinate. You already know what you need to do, it's just a matter of doing it. Take a long, deep breath and move ahead. Reward yourself for a recent achievement you have attained at work.

CAPRICORN

December 22-January 20

You have the power to help someone close to you and don't know it right now. Look closely at your loved ones and inquire about what's going on in their lives. How you can help will become evident. By the end of the week, you'll be ready for some time alone. Take it.

AQUARIUS

January 21-February 18

There's only one way to deal with a person you consider to be a pest but don't want to offend. Do it directly. Don't be rude, but tell them the truth about your feelings. You'll be pleasantly surprised by their attitude.

PISCES

February 19-March 20

You know how to listen very well, but it's time to do some of the talking. You have something important to talk about and this isn't the time to clam up. Sit down with the person it relates to, and open up.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

New American Pot Roast

(Makes 8 servings)

4-pound boneless beef chuck pot roast
2 T vegetable oil
2/3 C. teriyaki marinade & sauce
1 large bay leaf

Brown beef slowly on both sides in hot oil in Dutch oven or large saute pan. Stir in teriyaki sauce, 2 cups water and bay leaf. Cover and simmer 2 1/2 hours, turning beef over every 30 minutes. Add potatoes, carrots and onions. Cover and simmer 20 minutes, or until beef and vegetables are tender. Meanwhile, blend flour and 1 cup water. Remove beef and vegetables; keep warm. Discard bay leaf. Bring pan juices to boil; gradually stir in flour mixture, cooking until mixture thickens. To serve, cut beef across grain into thin slices and

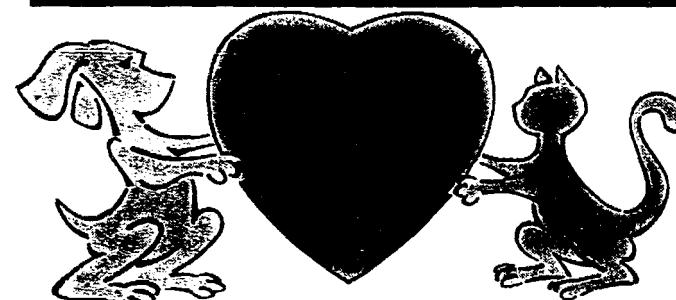
serve with hot gravy and vegetables.

If using larger potatoes, cut into quarters. Substitute 1 med. onion, cut in wedges, for pearl onions.

Each serving: 407 calories, 15g fat, 143mg cholesterol, 949mg sodium, 36g carbohydrates, 52g protein.



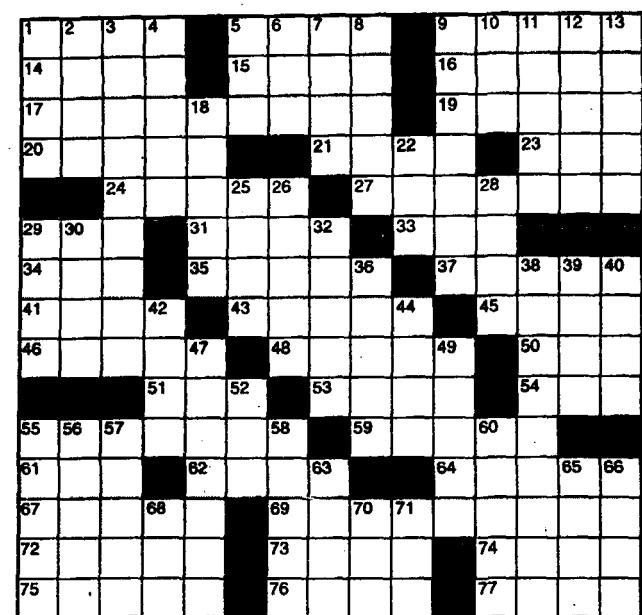
ADOPT A PET



Are you interested in getting a new pet, but don't have the money to pay high pet store prices? We have the perfect solution: Adopt a pet from our local animal shelter.

Our shelter has a variety of cats and dogs that don't have a home or a loving family to care for them. Come and take a look at these animals that are just waiting to be loved by your family. You're sure to fall in love with at least one!

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. ___ bag
5. Casement
9. Musical group
14. Garibaldi's birthplace
15. Bread spread
16. Rubinstein's instrument
17. Attributes
19. Vermicelli, e.g.
20. Hammer and sickle, e.g.
21. Leander's lover
23. "Hazel" cartoonist Key
24. Fiberglass fixative
27. Track stars, at times
29. Pulp author Buntline
31. Redraft
33. Modernist
34. Tycoon Onassis
35. Man from Mazatlan
37. Homeowner assignments
41. Good weather in Stowe
43. Loft
45. Emulate Fitzgerald
46. Isn't
48. What brats break
50. ___ snail's pace (2 wds.)
51. Lamprey
53. Rachel's sister
54. CSA soldier
55. Bart or Homer

59. Playground structure
61. Pod or corn prefix
62. Carroll's "brillig" predecessor
64. Aboveboard
67. Cooking stove
69. Some Iberians
72. ___ The Lilacs (Alcott)
73. Hectare counterpart
74. 1916 hit
75. Fine fogs
76. The ___ Great Planet Earth (Hal Lindsey)
77. Water pitcher

25. Inspiration
26. Beethoven's last symphony
28. Chops out weeds
29. Vanity Fair founder
30. River to Donegal Bay
32. Sun
36. Tears apart
38. Bolger role
39. Allie's pal
40. Random try
42. Shed tears
44. Source of carbon
47. Bed ruffles
49. Frank extra
52. Deuce description
55. Hootenanny action
56. Tetheran resident
57. Takes exception to
58. Certain passage
60. Steak
63. Watchdog gp.
65. Groundless
66. Mogul
68. "I ___ Around" (Beach Boys)
70. Museum display
71. Born

Sponsored by: The Law Office Of

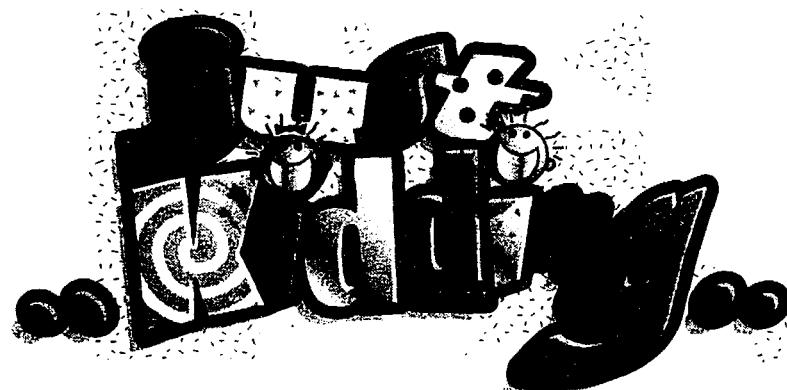
John B. Huss

Speculating in

Real Estate • Probate • Wills • Divorce

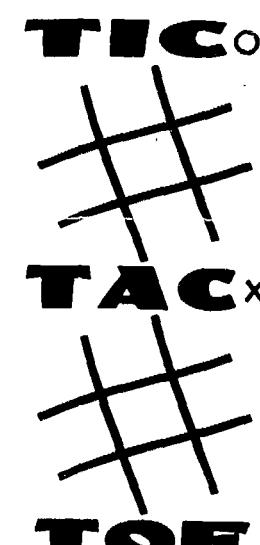
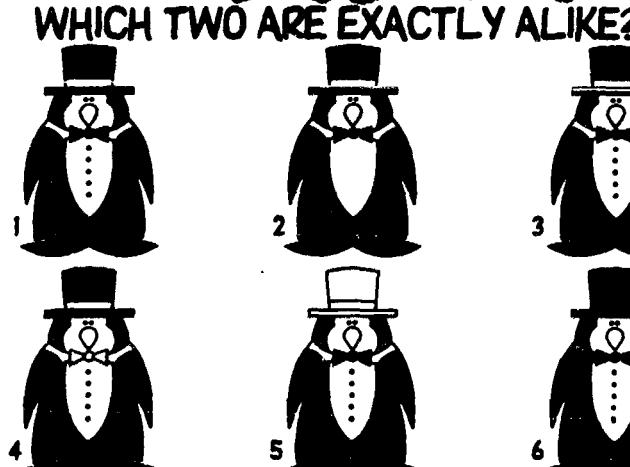
(517) 348-5431

ANSWERS IN
CLASSIFIEDS



FIND THE TWINS

WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?



WEATHER

Courtesy of the City of Grayling

Date	High	Low	Precip
12/31	17	1	
1/1	20	0	.01
1/2	36	19	.02
1/3	47	33	.02
1/4	49	20	
1/5	47	20	.48
1/6	35	32	

A LOOK AT OUR PAST FROM THE PAGES OF THE AVALANCHE

23 YEARS AGO

January 2, 1975

Grayling High School is to host the Class C Regional Wrestling and Basketball Tournaments.

The six counties in the AuSable Valley have 76 percent of their combined land area in commercial forests. Crawford County is 86 percent forested, Oscoda is 83 percent, Roscommon is 81 percent, Alcona 75 percent, Iosco 69 percent, and Ogemaw 65 percent.

The forest industry harvested 186,500 cords of pulpwood in 1973. If the pulpwood was piled in one continuous pile four feet high, it would stretch for 141 miles—or the distance along I-75 from West Branch to Rochester, Michigan.

In 1972 the estimated harvest of sawlogs was 28 million board feet.

The Natural Resources Commission appoints Dr. Howard A. Tanner as the new Department of Natural Resources Director.

Reverend Paul C. Frederick of Michelson Memorial United Methodist Church, Grayling was named State Police chaplain.

Women applicants aged 21 to 30 inclusive are again being sought by the Michigan State Police as candidates for the position of state police-woman 07.

Midshipman Terry Fitzpatrick, son of Mrs. Warren Fitzpatrick, arrived home for a two week leave from the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md.

The 25th Anniversary for Tip-Up Town USA, to be held January 18 and 19, 1975.

The State Police is seeking pure strain German shepherds for use in the departments tracking program.

Arthur Gibson, Automobile Club of Michigan's Safety and Traffic Engineering manager stated, "Eat 'em mashed and you won't get smashed." Before heading out to parties motorists should eat mashed potatoes or some other starchy dish.

These foods help retain alcohol in the stomach and slows the absorption into the bloodstream. In urging all party-goers to be "First a Friend, Then a Host," Eighty percent of Michigan's motorists will drink during the holidays and drive.

On Saturday, Dec. 7, Thomas R. Welsh III, of Grayling, received his B.A. in Advertising Art degree at Michigan State University's fall term commencement exercises. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Welsh, also of Grayling.

Petitions are being circulated in Grayling calling on the City to establish a traffic light at the corner of Lake and Cedar streets. The petition was ordered by Robert Jackson of Grayling but their cost is being underwritten by Grayling businessmen who donated for their printing.

Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Molitor announce the arrival of Randy Phillip at Mercy Hospital on Dec. 22nd. Randy weighed six pounds and one half ounce. Mrs. Molitor is the former Norma Crawford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Crawford.

A son, Wayne Alan, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Floyd SanCartier at Mercy Hospital on Dec. 21st. He weighed six pounds. The happy grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. T. SanCartier and Mrs. H. Juhl.

John Krage returned to the service in California Thursday after enjoying a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Krage.

Mrs. L. B. Niles, who is teaching at Lovells, is enjoying a two week vacation at her home here.

Mr. and Mrs. A.P.W. Becker spent last week in Detroit with the children and getting acquainted with the new grandson.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Trumley paid a holiday visit to their daughter at Lewiston last week.

spent New Years in Bay City, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Al Roth.

Eber Hanson Jr. spent Sunday and Monday with his parents.

69 YEARS AGO

January 3, 1929

The following officers were installed at Grayling Lodge No. 356 F. & A.M. last week: W.M., Carl W. Peterson; S.W., Oscar Swanson; J.W., George Schiabie; S.D., Harold McNeven; J.D., Harry Hemmingson; Secretary, W.W. Lewis; treasurer, George Olson; Tyler, Ernest Borchers; stewards, E.N. Darveau and Nyland Houghton; chaplain, J.W. Greenwood; pianist, Harold Skingley.

Misses Mildred Ostrander and "Boots" LaMotte accompanied Bill Cald and John Kellogg to Lovells Wednesday and attended a party.

Clinton McNeven of Bay City visited Howard Granger over the weekend, enjoying the toboggan slide at Lake Margrethe.

The first newcomers of the new year to Crawford County are twin daughters born to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Custer of Riverview, this morning.

Junior Wakeley left Tuesday night for Detroit, where he will work this winter for General Motors Co.

92 YEARS AGO

January 4, 1906

The Electric Company has installed new lamps in the streets so that the lights are now eminently satisfactory and claimed to be as good as in any town in the state.

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Crawford County Avalanche

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CHARLENE SCHEER
Broker/Owner
Valuation Specialist
G.R.I./CRS



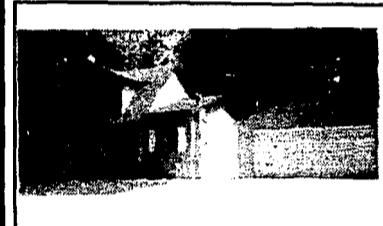
CRAIG HINKLE
Broker/Owner
State Licensed Appraiser

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HIGH VISIBILITY/COMMERCIAL BUILDING Located in downtown retail district. Recent updates, front and rear parking. Building contains 2,196 sq. ft. of retail space, plus 540 sq. ft. basement for storage. Original tin ceilings in the charm of an era past. \$115,000. Real estate only. Immediate occupancy. CH-658



TALKING HOUSE

CHARM, DIGNITY AND CHARACTER is what you will find in this 1 1/2-story home located 1/2 block from Lake Margrethe. This beautiful home features beautiful oak kitchen cabinets, a large oak dining room, warm family room with fireplace and woodstove, spacious master suite with private bath and an inviting deck with hot tub, all of this and more, situated on a large manicured lot with public access to Lake Margrethe. \$98,000. CS-640



AuSABLE RIVER MAINSTREAM Located very conveniently to Grayling, yet secluded on 2.2 acres and 166' high-bank frontage. Just west of Sherwood Forest, amongst beautiful oak trees, white and red pines, 1,080 sq. ft., three bedrooms. \$57,000. Immediate occupancy. CH-653



BEAUTIFUL WOODED GROUNDS ON 9.85 ACRES WITH 318' ON E. BRANCH AUSSABLE RIVER Two-bedroom, 1 1/2-bath offers 1,232 sq. ft. with gas forced-air heat, 30x32 family-sized recreational room with woodstove, charming living room with brick gas-log fireplace, with fantastic view of the AuSable River. Screened porch for outside entertaining. Paneling throughout, acoustic-tile ceilings. Master suite offers private bath with garden tub and shower. 7x9 sauna off private room. Appliances include stove and refrigerator. Kitchen offers snack bar. Exterior cedar shake siding, two-car detached garage. Four miles north east of Grayling. \$89,000. CS-687



RENTAL/COMMERCIAL BUILDING with view of AuSable River and I-75 Business Loop exposure. Building offers 1,248 sq. ft., kitchenette, bath, office and large display area. This property offers many possibilities. \$38,000 bank financing or \$54,000 owner financing. CH-698



Mon. - Sat.
9 am - 5 pm
Sun. - by
appointment
5728 M-72 W.

#1
in sales
volume
for
Crawford
County
in
1995
and
1996

1996 Sales Volume



RE/MAX Century 21

Cornell

Miss. RE
Companies



348-7440 ★ 800-731-4002

Classifieds must be paid for in advance

Display Advertising Rate - \$5.60 per column inch

Deadline for Display Classifieds - 12 Noon, Monday

Classifieds by the word rate - \$3.50 for 15 words

or less, 10¢ per each additional word

Classified by the word deadline - 12 Noon, Tuesday



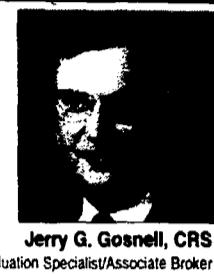
1. Real Estate

AUSABLE RIVER home on Wendy Lane. Lovely four bedroom, 1 1/2 baths. Chalet. Fireplace, attached 1 1/2 car garage, furnished. Beautiful setting on 10 acres with 175 ft. frontage. Owner very anxious. Reduced to \$139,000. Call Hamrick Real Estate Co. P.C. Phone or fax, 517-348-5433, evenings 348-8336. 12/18/97tf/1

FOR SALE BY OWNER In town, low maintenance house, two bedroom, one bath, kitchen with dining area. Full furnished basement, bedroom, den, family room, kitchen. All new appliances, carpet, window treatments. Lots of storage area. For details call 1-616-592-0320. LR1/21/98/1

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Jerry G. Gosnell, CRS
Valuation Specialist/Associate Broker

RECREATIONAL ★ ★ ★ RESIDENTIAL ★ ★ ★



TURN-KEY COTTAGE - BRING LINENS, TOWELS AND FOOD, THAT'S ALL YOU WILL NEED Lake Margrethe access down the hill two blocks away. Completely furnished with Rittenhouse antiques. 680 sq. ft. of living space with 1 1/2 baths and full basement. Two-car attached garage. \$65,000. #JG-610

CAPE COD BUILT IN 1994, HAS 5 LARGE DORMERS Across from state land. View & access to Lake Margrethe. Natural gas hot-water heat, 2 full baths. Ceramic tile, wood & carpeted floors. Victorian woodwork & 6-panel doors. White on white G.E. kitchen. Full basement with 8-ft. ceiling, gas fireplace. Terraced backyard with large deck. \$176,500. #JG-664



TWO-BEDROOM MOBILE in the city of Grayling. Handyman special on 60x120 lot, for only \$8,000. #JG-395



RANCH-STYLE HOME nestled amongst virgin pines on approximately one acre +/- Features include 917 sq. ft., LP forced-air heat, two bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, woodstove in living room, walk-out patio door off dining area onto deck. Dishwasher, garbage disposal and washer/dryer included. Backstop drive, two-car detached garage. New plumbing, electric and furnace, roof four years old. Thousands of acres federal land with Walefey Lake across the road. AuSable River 1/2 mile, country store 1 1/2 miles. Reduced, \$54,500. CS-629

**Serving the Real Estate needs
of the Grayling area
for over 40 years.**



GREAT LOCATION for the hunter, fisherman or snowmobiler. Two-bedroom mobile, includes stove and refrigerator. 14x20 garage to store the toys, or purchase for rental income. \$19,900. (DL-97)



TWO-BEDROOM YEAR-ROUND HOME on three large lots, 900 sq. ft., two-car garage with two attached carports, garden area and all appliances. Only four years old. Lots of charm & only 1/2 mile from Bear Lake access. \$59,000. (DM-44)



TEN ACRES OF PRIVACY This beautiful, well-maintained home offers three bedrooms, three baths, full finished basement, two-car garage, and that country feeling. Many more features too numerous to mention. \$110,000. (DM-46)



HUNTERS, FISHERMEN AND SNOWMOBILERS One-room cabin with electricity, heat and water. Built-in bunks, outside john and a 20x24 garage over 600' frontage, nice trees and a breathtaking view. \$18,900. (BK-37)



LAKE MARGRETHE Pioneer log home, three bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, sauna, two garages, observation sun deck, gazebo, over 600' frontage, nice trees and a breathtaking view. \$270,000. Reduced, \$259,900. (LM-933)



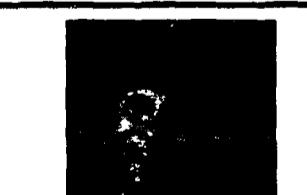
THIS IS A GREAT LITTLE STARTER HOME with two bedrooms, one bath, nice-size lot, and close to the high school. New carpet and linoleum have been added, along with new paint. \$39,900. (DM-53)



M-72 EAST Located on 18 acres. Two to three bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, single shed, swimming pool. Includes stove, refrigerator, washer and dryer. \$74,500. (DL-100)



CUTE 2-BEDROOM full-log home with 100' frontage on Lake Marpoy, south of Waters on Old-27. 1-car garage w/ ample storage. Guest house w/ kitchenette & bath. Home has natural gas fireplace, recently-remodeled bath & kitchen. Excellent hunting area w/state land outside the door. Includes appliances. \$139,900. Reduced, \$119,900. (SG-22)



Cornell Real Estate is happy to announce two additions to our sales staff: Kim McClain and Bonnie Odell, who bring combined seven years of real estate experience. With this new challenge, Kim and Bonnie are excited to start 1998 in their new office, located at the corner of M-72 East and I-75 Business Loop. If you are planning on making a change in the new year, give our office a call, and ask for Kim or Bonnie, at 348-6481.

Kim McClain
Bonnie Odell

1. Real Estate

1. Real Estate



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Sunday, January 11, 1998
1 - 4 pm

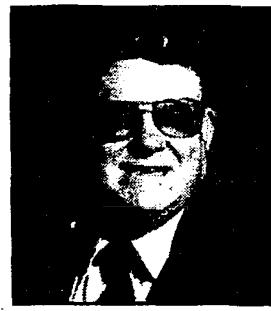


10903 Black Bear Drive

Directions: Down the road and over the hill

Five-bedroom, four-bath home in gorgeous lakeside setting with extensive decking, stairwell to 30' dock, and more! Come see it today. Call Jim Kowall at:

(616) 322-4385



James Kowall

Rupp & Keen
real estate



Classifieds 348-6811

2. For Rent

FOR RENT Looking for responsible woman to share nice house with full house privileges. \$350 per month. Includes utilities. 348-9242. -31-8/2

FOR RENT: Two bedroom house, partially furnished, big yard. \$350 a month. \$350 security deposit, one mile from Grayling, in Karen Woods. Call (517) 786-2226, ask for Tom or Brandy. -8-15/2

TWO BEDROOM CARPETED DUPLEX near Lake Margrethe, with carport, refrigerator, stove and natural gas heat. \$425 plus utilities and security. Responsible adults with references. Very low heat bills. Cable ready. Available January 20. 348-5230. -8-15/2

The GRAYLING HOUSING COMMISSION is taking applications for family three-bedroom apartments. Rent is based on 30% gross income. Utilities are included in the rent.

Qualifications:
1. good rental history
2. good credit history
3. family size appropriate for each apartment of size

(517) 348-9314

Rent Range:

Family of 2: \$107 - \$555 Maximum income \$22,700
Family of 3: \$125 - \$615 Maximum income \$25,550
Family of 4: \$150 - \$674 Maximum income \$28,400



THE
GRAYLING
HOUSING
COMMISSION

2. For Rent

NEAT AND WELL MAINTAINED Two bedroom apartment at 201 Fulton. Security light and door, upper level, \$425. One bedroom lower level apartment at 401 Ingaham, \$350, Section 8 accepted. Single person and senior discounts available. Call Ron at. 348-6761. 12/31/97tf/2

CABIN FOR RENT: on the river. Nightly or weekly. 517-348-8350. 9/9/97tf/2

FOR RENT Three bedroom trailer, \$295 a month, same deposit, no pets. Secure job or ADC. Must be vended. 208 Rolla St. 517-356-5700. -31-8/2

ROOM FOR RENT Full house privileges, \$250 month plus share utilities. Call Larry, 348-3297. -31-8-15-22/2

HOUSE FOR RENT in Grayling. One bedroom, all appliances, two car garage. \$425 per month, plus security deposit. 348-5372. No pets. -8-15/2

CLEAN, seven miles east of Grayling, newer two bedroom, two bath, built-in hutch and desk, refrigerator, stove, washer and gas dryer. \$450 per month. \$500 security deposit. References required. No pets. 348-8386. -8/2

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT or lease in Grayling. 348-8658, leave message. -8/2

APARTMENT SIZE ONE BEDROOM house in Grayling. \$350 per month. First and last months rent. Credit report obtained. 517-732-2353, weekdays or 517-939-8965, weekends and evenings. -8-15/2

FOR RENT: Small efficiency unit for single working person, furnished, includes utilities cable hook-up. \$320 per month deposit \$160 call 348-5433. -1/8/98/2

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED Two bedroom mobile home. \$375/month, deposit, references. 517-684-8707. -8-15/2

ONE, TWO AND THREE bedroom rental units in Grayling. One bedroom duplex, in Roscommon. Northwoods Rentals, 517-275-5225. -1/8/98tf/2

FOR RENT Two bedroom house in country, with attached garage, eight miles south of Grayling. Crawford schools, references plus deposit, \$500 per month, 517-275-4126. -8-15/2

FOR LEASE

Brand new retail - office space available soon. Located just off I-75 exit 244. Centrally located between Roscommon, Higgins Lake, Grayling and West Branch. 400 sq. ft. to 800 sq. ft. **Contact:** Costello Construction for lease information and additional floor plan specification. Mon. - Fri. 9 am to 5 pm. 517-275-4168

3. Employment

The City of Grayling, Michigan is seeking qualified applicants for the position of City Treasurer.

This position reports directly to and is appointed by the City Manager. The day to day work consists of normal accounting functions and treasurer duties, including direct supervision of one employee and responsibility for administration of the City Income Tax.

The person selected for this job must possess a high level of competence in computer operations and be able to operate independently using the fund balance system and a recently installed property tax program (BS&A).

Salary and benefits will be dependent upon qualifications and/or education/experience. Current salary mid \$30,000.00 with a full fringe benefit package.

Additional details regarding the position may be obtained from the Grayling City Manager at 103 S. James, Grayling, MI 49738. Inquiries will be handled in a confidential manner if desired. The City of Grayling is an equal opportunity employer. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

3. Employment

HELP WANTED Receptionist/billing clerk. 20 hours/week, good telephone skills, able to work well with public, able to use computer. Send resume to: C. DiPonio, P.O. Box 607, Grayling, MI 49738. -8-15/3

NOW HIRING RN/LPN day and midnight shifts, full and part-time positions available, competitive wages. Come and be part of our team in a growing progressive medical field. Come in or call for more information. Betty Mahaffy RNC, D.O.N. Meadows of Grayling. 517-348-2801. E.O.E. -8-15-22/3

FLOOR COVERING INSTALLERS

NEEDED for vinyl, hardwood, carpet and ceramic tile. Minimum five years experience, must have own van, tools, workmen's comp. Call 517-732-7728 or 517-732-2691. 10/9/97tf/3

HOUSEKEEPER WANTED part-time, Woodland Motel. Apply in person. -8-15/3

HELP WANTED experienced only. Flatwork/poured walls. 517-366-7532. -8-15/3

WANTED: RECEPTIONIST. 16 hours/week, must be flexible. Application and job description available at Commission on Aging, 308 Lawndale. Deadline, January 16, 1998 at 4:30. E.O.E. -8-15/3

EXPERIENCED HAIR STYLIST wanted at Northern Expression. For more information about chair rental, please call 348-8555 or 348-5268. -18-24-31-8/3

HOME WORKERS NEEDED Easy craft/wood/sewing assembly \$300-\$600/wk. Materials provided. Free info. pkg. 24 hr. 707-256-0138. -8-15-22-29/3

PERSON TO CARE for elderly people, second and third shifts. Cleaning and cooking required. Apply at Wargo's Manor 808 Chestnut 348-9647. -8/3

WANTED EXPERIENCED PERSON for professional child care, in our home, for newborn. Approximately 40 hrs. per week. References required. Send resume to Attn: P.O. Box 376, Grayling, MI 49738. -8-15/3

BIG BUCK BREWERY has openings for dishwashers, cooks and greeters/gift shop. Flexible hours, excellent pay. Apply in person in Grayling. Thursday's from 2-4 p.m. -8-15/3

3. Employment

CRAWFORD COUNTY DEPUTY COURT CLERK POSITION

Full-time Union Position - \$8.21 Starting Wage

Under supervision of County Clerk, serving as Deputy Circuit Court Clerk. Duties: Accept and process legal documents, attend court, collect and disperse court fees, and any other assigned duties. Legal experience preferred. Apply to Crawford County Clerk Sandra Moore, 200 W. Michigan Ave., Grayling, MI 49738, by 4 pm January 16, 1998. -8-15/3

POSITION OPENINGS

STAFF WRITER - Full-time

For general news, features and sports. Requires some evenings and weekends. Education and experience in journalism and photography a plus. Must be well organized and able to work within deadlines. Benefits.

AVALANCHE

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Northern Michigan's Gaylord, West Shore and NMC University Center campuses are seeking qualified adjunct faculty to add to its current staff. Openings are available in the following subject areas: Accounting, Business, Accounting courses, Economics, Mathematics, Sociology, Finance (banking), English and Computer Information. Adjunct faculty must possess a master's degree and solid teaching experience in the appropriate discipline, and/or business related skills. Demonstrated teaching philosophy focuses on the teacher as facilitator and the understanding and application of adult learning principles. Those considered, send resume and cover letter postmarked by January 16, 1998, to:

Mr. John Charnocki, Director of Northern Michigan Operations
Davenport College
600 Livingston Blvd., Suite 1B-2,
Gaylord, Michigan 49735

Those selected will need to attend a half-day assessment on January 31, 1998.

MERCY AMICARE HOMECARE & HOSPICE

Affiliated with the Mercy Health Services North Community Healthcare System

MERCY AMICARE HOME CARE & HOSPICE IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

HOSPICE - Full-Time, Part-Time and Contingent RN. Immediate opening for RN to assist patients achieve their wish to stay in their own home at the end of their lives. One or more years of professional nursing experience is required, medical/surgical, ICU or homecare experience desirable. Must have well-developed assessment skills and ability to work independently. Rewarding position offering excellent wages and mileage reimbursement. Please call Kimberly Mecomber, Hospice Clinical Manager.

HOSPICE - Part-Time Certified Home Health Aide. Successful candidates will have a minimum of six months home health or certified nurse aide experience. Please call Kimberly Mecomber, Hospice Clinical Manager.

HOMECARE - RN/LPNs. Needed to work weekdays with home ventilator program client. LPNs must be NAPES certified or attended a pharmacology course. Vocational training available. Competitive wages offered and mileage reimbursement. Contact Deb Tyler, Clinical Coordinator.

HOMECARE - Contingent Home Health Aides. Successful candidates will have a minimum of six months home health or certified nurse aide experience. Must be willing to drive any of our nine county service area. Competitive wages offered and mileage reimbursement. Please call Debbie Tyler, Clinical Coordinator.

HOMECARE - Full-Time and Contingent Respiratory Therapist. In this position, you will be responsible for initial in-home respiratory equipment set-up and maintenance. You will document physical and psychosocial assessments of the client, respiratory symptoms, obtaining diagnostic information on clients and their families, and potential problem areas, needs and resources of individuals, families and significant others and set priorities in collecting data and developing a plan of treatment. The successful candidate will be a Registered Respiratory Therapist or Certified Respiratory Therapy Technician. One to two years durable medical equipment experience a plus. Please contact Ron Koryciak, Operations Manager.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE PERSON LISTED IN INDIVIDUAL AD: 1-800-424-1457/517-348-4383

OR

MAIL YOUR RESUME TO 517-348-3234 OR MAIL TO PERSON LISTED IN INDIVIDUAL AD: 125 MICHIGAN AVENUE, GRAYLING, MI 49738.

MERCY AMICARE HOMECARE & HOSPICE IS COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN THE WORK PLACE AND IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

4. Services Offered

DISH NETWORK 18" dish, \$199+. 40 channels for \$19.99 per month. Installation available. Northern Electronics, (517) 348-6944. 6/19/97tf/4

RENT-A-DAUGHTER needs assistance with activities of daily living. Call Anne (ret. R.N.) 348-6342. -8/4

PIANO TUNING AND REPAIRS Rogers Piano Service, Fairview, MI 48621. Over 20 years experience. (517) 848-2262. 3/19/91tf/4

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3. Employment

NOTICE

High volume local real estate franchise is seeking professional minded, successful oriented, highly motivated individual to fill demanding sales position. We offer exceptional facilities, agent assistance and the most modern software and technical equipment available. This position offers the right candidate a realistic income potential of \$30,000.00 to \$100,000.00.

Possession of a Michigan Real Estate sales license and successful experience are a definite plus, however, other applicants will be considered based on their merits, abilities and motivation. A cash bonus, generous commissions and paid advertising is available for licensed candidates, based on their past experience and success.

This is an ideal position for professional persons seeking an opportunity for financial improvement and recognition. Send letter of interest and resume to Century 21 River Country Real Estate, Inc., 5688 W. M-72, Grayling, Michigan.

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WOLFF TANNING BEDS. Tan at home! Buy direct and SAVE. Commercial/Home units from \$199. Low Monthly Payments! Call today for FREE Color Catalog 1-800-842-1310.

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4. Services Offered

WHY TAKE NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS? Can proper nutrients help auto immune diseases like Arthritis, Chronic Fatigue, Fibromyalgia, M.S. and Lupus. what about A.D.D. and A.D.H.D. For more information call April at 348-4560. 9/18/97tf/4

SEWING, SEWING, SEWING Bridal to zippers, tailoring to mending. Call Shirley, 348-1348. 5/18/96tf/4

odd-job enterprises Let us do your small home repairs FREE ESTIMATES - CALL Ltc. Norm Schmoock (ret.) 348-5132 No odd jobs too small for Odd Job

BEN'S DRYWALL RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL HANGING • FINISHING No Job Too Small. Drywall repairs our specialty. FREE ESTIMATES References 517-348-2127

4. Services Offered

IRONING DONE in my home. 348-7675. -8/15/4

MAKE YOUR OWN precious porcelain doll. Call "Dolls by Barbara", 348-8350 for appointment. -1/8/98/4

COMPLETE SEPTIC TANK INSTALLATION & CLEANING Jack Millikin, Inc. 348-8411 -10/11tf/4

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Are you going to build or remodel? Call Tri-Lakes Home Builders Association for a list of our licensed and insured contractor members (517) 275-4759

5. For Sale

EIGHT WEEK OLD Chocolate Lab puppies, \$250 each. Call after 6 p.m. 275-4619. -18-24-31-8/5

INSULATION New unfaced, R-11 and R-19, good price. 517-348-4856 or 5170348-6014. -31-8/5

SNOWBOARD FOR SALE Like new, only used a few times, with bindings. 150 cm. long, \$250. Call 348-8163. Leave message. -31-8/5

KENMORE GAS RANGE Self cleaning, excellent condition, three years old, \$450. O.B.O. 517-348-9030 -31-8/5

WOLF TANNING BED Private owned, hardly used, like new. \$1,200. 517-348-6625. -31-8/5

5. For Sale

SEASONED OAK FIREWOOD \$40 per cord delivered and stacked. Leave message. 348-6340. LR1/29/98/5

THE 1998 two play for the price of one golf books for sale. 517-348-2642. LRI-8-98/5

PEARL five piece, black drum set, with three cymbals. Great condition. \$350 O.B.O. (517) 348-8550, after 6 p.m. -8/5

TODDLER BED with mattress. \$25. Single bed, rustic bookcase head board, \$125. Call 348-6967. -8-15/5

FOR SALE VCR, \$40; JVC CD player, \$16; Winchester 30.30 with scope, \$225; Stair climber, \$40; two men's mountain bikes, \$50 each; aluminum truck box, \$100; 386 with everything, \$400; 486 with everything, \$600; home stereo amplifier, \$50; fax machine, \$90; two 10 speeds, \$75 for both; '91 S10 two wheel drive, many extras, sharp truck, \$2,500, delivery possible. 616-879-3925. -8-15/5

FOR SALE tanning beds, 26 and 30 lamps, well maintained, require 220 volt. 348-8658. -8/5

SCRAP BOOK CLASSES at J. Dap Co., 118 Mich. Ave. Jan. 14, 21, 28, 7-9 p.m. Call 348-4011 to register for classes and more information. -8-15/5

6. Wanted

WANTED used traps, any condition. 517-348-2127. -8-15/6

7. Miscellaneous

LOST DOG Tan puppy, four months old, Boxer face, raccoon tail, female. 517-275-5032 after 10 a.m. -8/7

8. Announcements

WELCOME WAGON HOSTESSES Call Betty Mansfield, 348-8562, or Mary Lou Passmore, 348-5816, if you are a newcomer, engaged or a new mother. 8/3-8/85tf/8

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Regular Display - 1/2 to full page, 5 pm Thursday. All other 5 pm Friday. Classified Display - 12 noon Monday. Classified by the word 12 noon Tuesday. These deadlines may change with notice due to holidays or special publication.

FOR YOUR The Crawford County Avalanche now accepts Visa and MasterCard credit cards for subscriptions, and the placement of display and classified advertising.

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We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following businesses that donated items to raffle for our Christmas raffle.

The staff of Mercy Manor/Mercy Hospital thank you:

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Walmart-- Gaylord

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2a. Want to Rent	5. For Sale	8. Announcements	11. Automotive

\$3.50	\$3.60	\$3.70	\$3.80	\$3.90	\$4.00	\$4.10
\$4.20	\$4.30	\$4.40	\$4.50	\$4.60	\$4.70	\$4.80
\$4.90	\$5.00	\$5.10	\$5.20	\$5.30	\$5.40	\$5.50
\$5.60	\$5.70	\$5.80	\$5.90	\$6.00	\$6.10	\$6.20
\$6.30	\$6.40	\$6.50	\$6.60	\$6.70	\$6.80	\$6.90
\$7.00	\$7.10	\$7.20	\$7.30	\$7.40	\$7.50	\$7.60

CLASSIFIEDS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE BY TUESDAY NOON

